- **SPORTS/A21** Chicago White Sox barge into World Series
- **BUSINESS/B1** Agriculture recovery seen to boost Q3 GDP
- **WORLD/A8** Pakistan earthquake deaths soar past 50,000
- **LIFESTYLE/C1** Learn about breast cancer and save a life

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Lomibao's lament: Media report only police errors

By Luige A. del Puerto and Blanche S. Rivera

KAWAWA NAMAN...

DO GOOD BY STEALTH, yes, but there ought to be exceptions—at least in the eyes of Philippine National Police Director

LOMIBAO'S/ A7

El Shaddai leader slams CPR policy

VELARDE: It's a clear sign of disrespect to faith. RYAN LIM

Bro. Mike angered by dispersal of prayer rally

By Christian V. Esguerra and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE INFLUENTIAL LEADER OF the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai yesterday blasted the police dispersal of a prayer rally last week and warned President Macapagal-Arroyo that her tough stand on dissenters was fueling political instability.

"Brute force should not be used against the elderly," said Bro. Mike Velarde in his first public expression of displeasure at Ms Arroyo, to whom he is spiritual adviser.

"The suppression of prayer rallies led by responsible religious leaders is a clear sign of disrespect to faith and beliefs which must not be tolerated by the faithful and the people regardless of religious affiliation," said Velarde.

Velarde, whose El Shaddai group claims a following of five million, said he was shocked and angered by the police dispersal of the march led by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, 77, and Bishops Deogracias Iñiguez, 64; Antonio Tobias, 64, and Julio Xavier Labayen, 79. No serious injuries were reported during the incident.

Archbishop Fernando Capalla, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philip-

EL SHADDAI/ A4

CHR tells cops: Protesters were not terrorists

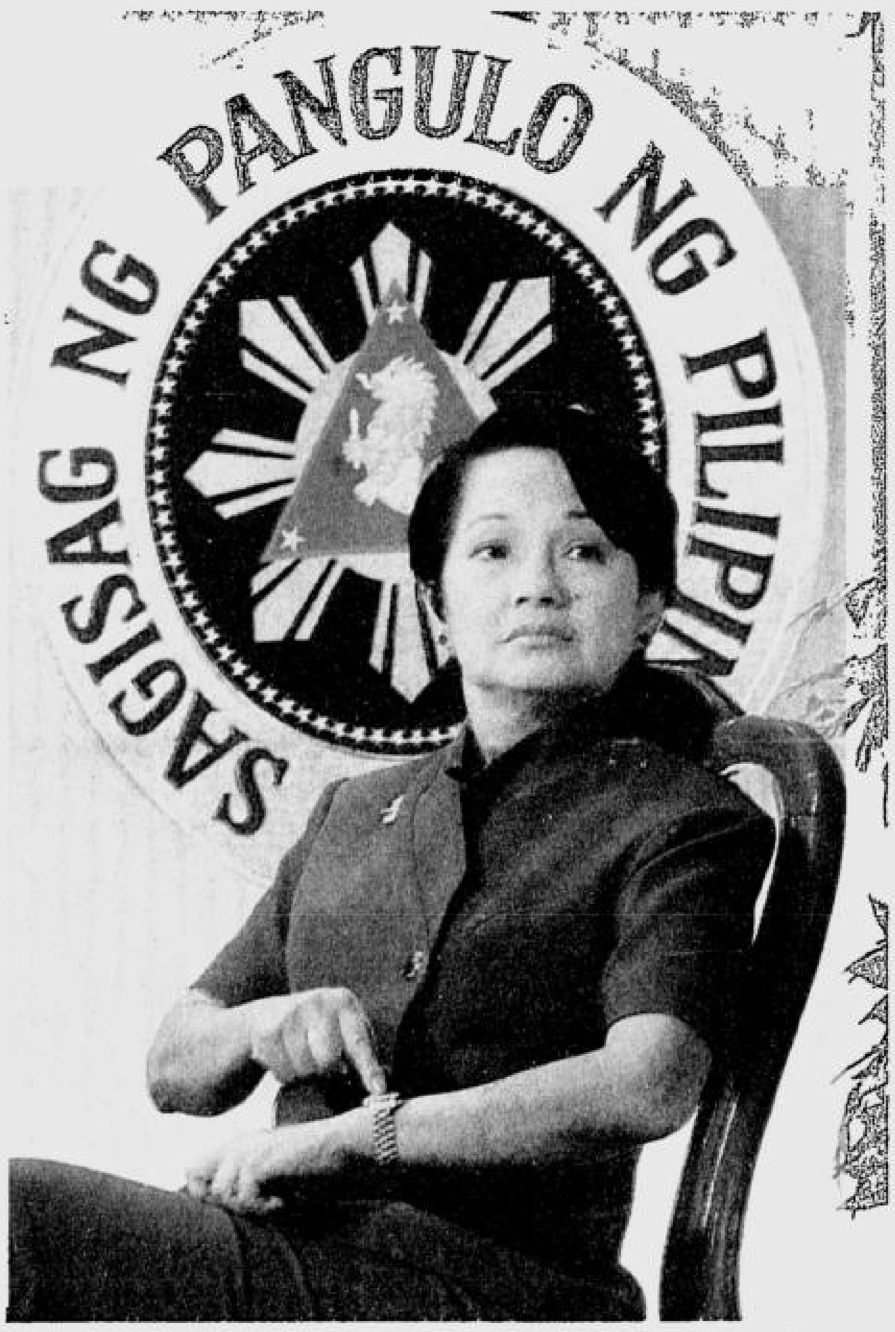
By Norman Bordadora, Leila B. Salaverria and Tina G. Santos

THEY WERE ONLY A FEW HUNDRED MEN, were not terrorists and could not have driven President Macapagal-Arroyo out of the Palace.

At worst, the police could have allowed them to cross over Mendiola (Don Chino Roces) Bridge—which had symbolic power to the protesters—and then kept them within San Beda College where they would pose no danger to Malacañang.

Commissioner Wilhelm Soriano of the Commission on Human Rights made these observations in an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday to drive home his point that Friday's forcible dispersal of a Church-led protest march near Malacañang could have

CHR TELLS/ A4


SAGISAG NG PANGULO NG PILIPINAS

IT'S TIME. President Macapagal-Arroyo points to her watch to prompt the government television crew to speed up the program as she had to rush to another appointment. The show, featuring military and police generals, discussed security issues amid a rise in street protests. EDWIN BACASMAS

People fed up with protests, says GMA

By Christine O. Avendano and Armand N. Nocum

THREE DAYS AFTER POLICE wielding a water cannon broke up a religious procession, President Macapagal-Arroyo met with police officials to discuss security measures for the observance of All Saints Day on Nov. 1.

She referred to Friday's dispersal and the political uproar it provoked, ostensibly only in passing. Ms Arroyo said people were fed up with protests.

"I'm asking everyone to continue with their work, avoid participating in illegal assemblies and mass actions being pushed by those with self-serving interests and whose only objective is to bring down the country," the President said in Filipino.

But Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez was his usual self, saying some of them were nothing more than publicity seekers.

"I am appalled ... that that had to happen, but I do not condemn the reaction of the police because they're being pushed to the wall. Maybe ... *yung iba nagpapa-spray ng tubig ay gusto pa*

PEOPLE/ A7

Opposition says Palace out to control media

By Michael Lim Ubac

PLACING THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission under the supervision of the Department of Transportation and Communication is a move by President Macapagal-Arroyo to control media and telecommunication firms, three opposition lawmakers claimed yesterday.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and Representatives Rolex Suplico and Teofisto Guingona III said Ms Arroyo had ordered the transfer of the NTC to the DOTC though Executive Order No. 454.

When she signed it on Aug. 16, the President said the executive order "shall take effect immediately."

"There's only one motive here—to gain more power to control not only media entities but also telecoms," Escudero said at a press conference.

The NTC regulates telecommunication firms and broadcasting companies.

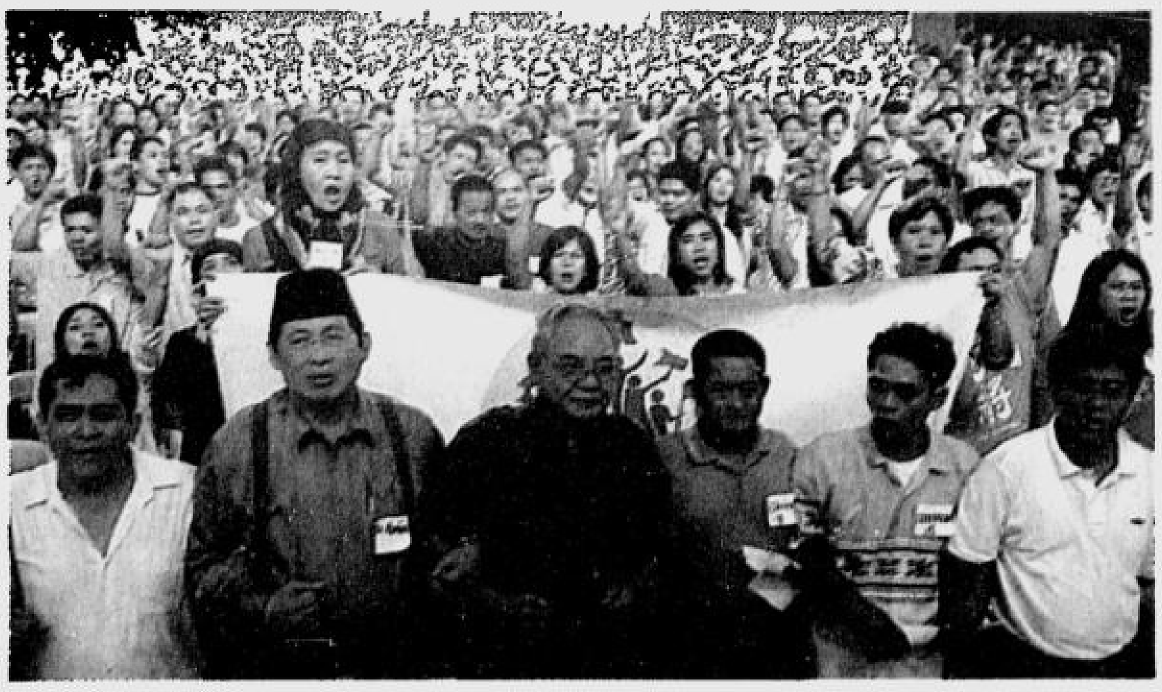
Escudero said the administration had long wanted to "regulate" text messaging because it was allegedly being used to destabilize the President.

Apparently fed up with the scenarios being drawn up by the opposition, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the opposition must be suffering from "extreme paranoia."

Escudero said Ms Arroyo, through the DOTC, could now "review, revise and modify" NTC decisions in the exercise of its quasi-judicial functions.

Escudero noted that the title of the executive order, "Transferring back the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) under the supervision and control of the Department of Transportation and Communications," said it all.

OPPOSITION/ A6



BACK TO THE GRASS ROOTS JOAN BONDOC

Members of cause-oriented and progressive groups meet at UP Diliman in Quezon City for the "Working People's Summit" to map out their "calibrated people's response" against the Arroyo administration. Led by former UP president Francisco Nemenzo, the group plans small pockets of protest in the countryside. *(Story on Page A6.)*

Breakthrough: High-yield rice that grows on dry soil

AFTER DECODING THE RICE genome, keeping one of the world's most important cereals productive despite chronic droughts is now a key focus of global research, according to the International Rice Research Institute.

The institute, which is based in Los Baños, Laguna, said a study this year had concluded that dry spells—more than floods or typhoons—were the primary recurring threat in Asia where around a fifth of all the rice-growing areas were prone to drought.

"Coping with recurrent drought is a part of life for millions of Asia's rural poor," the institute said in the latest edition of its journal Rice Today.

In 2004, widespread severe drought in much of Asia led not only to agricultural production losses of hundreds of millions of dollars but also pushed millions of people into poverty.

Since then, research has identified many rice varieties that not only produce high yields under good conditions but also 2-3 tons per hectare under conditions so dry that many popular varieties return less than a ton per hectare.

Cross-breeding varieties has produced the first generation of the so-called "aerobic rice" which, like corn, grows on dry soil, instead of in flooded paddies, the institute said.

This rice was produced by crossing modern high-yielding varieties, which respond well to

BREAKTHROUGH/ A6

GUDANI: Ex-Marine general turns to "spiritual warfare."

Warrior is now preacher

By Fe Zamora

FRANCISCO GUDANI HAS embarked on a new career as a preacher, turning him from a "gallant warrior from the sea" into a "soft-hearted Christian."

He has been a Marine and a Mason but nothing beats being a Christian, said the newly retired brigadier general, who hit the headlines late last month when he defied an order not to appear at a Senate hearing on the alleged in-

WARRIOR/ A6

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/10/18/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Pact would allow Aussie troops in RP

ZAMBOANGA CITY – AUSTRALIA AND THE Philippines have begun negotiations on a "status of forces agreement" that would allow Australian troops to be stationed in the country for the purpose of training Filipino forces.

"We are negotiating a status of forces agreement at the moment. I hope that will be completed in the next few months. It's been through a number of drafts already," Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill told The Associated Press here yesterday.

The United States is the only other country to have signed such an agreement with the Philippines, and provides the bulk of support and training to Filipino troops.

"In the era of terrorism, where we face a joint threat, we think we can do more," Hill said, adding that Australia was currently providing training to Philippine police and "we're looking to increase support for the Philippine Armed Forces as the front line against the threat."

Hill met with Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan, chief of the Southern Command, and said there could also be "further training and support for special forces, particularly in long-range reconnaissance work." He did not give details.

Australia and the Philippines will boost intelligence exchanges and maritime surveillance, focusing on the infiltration of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) militants into Mindanao, Hill told reporters.

Canberra, which has shown deep concern over the activities of Islamic militants in the southern Philippines since the 2002 Bali bombing, already provides training for about 60 Philippine soldiers a year in Australia.

A handful of Australian officers are based in Philippines to train their counterparts in bomb investigation techniques. The two countries have also held regular counterterrorism exercises at sea and on land since they signed a defense cooperation agreement in 1995.

"We are worried about the possible infiltration of JI in the region who work (their way) into the southern Philippines," Hill said. "The group is a threat to the whole region including to ourselves (Australians)."

While it had no comment on Hill's statements, Malacañang yesterday welcomed the Australian government's offer to help patrol Philippine waters to deter the cross-border movement of terrorists.

"We welcome the overtures from Australia for sea patrol cooperation under the principles of mutuality and sovereignty," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

Australia moved to tighten antiterrorism cooperation with the Philippines after military intelligence reported that the brains of the 2002 Bali bombings had been seen in Mindanao along with an associate in the Jemaah Islamiyah. A number of Australian tourists perished in those bombings.

"We must combine all the tools to fight terror – global cooperation and grassroots vigilance – with a strong antiterrorism bill that will facilitate the detection of terrorist cells, make them easier to arrest and keep them from executing their evil task," Bunye said.

Australia has been actively helping governments in the region track down members and leaders of JI, which has also been blamed for this month's bomb attacks in Bali that left 20 people dead.

Regional intelligence officials as well as the US government believe that two JI bombers wanted for the Bali bombings are hiding out in Mindanao. An $11-million bounty has been offered by the US government for their capture.

The JI operatives are believed to be aided by members of the local Abu Sayyaf group, which is blamed for a spate of high-profile kidnappings and the country's worst bomb attacks.

Philippine military officials told Hill during his visit here that there were 84 suspected Jemaah Islamiyah militants and 500 Abu Sayyaf guerrillas hiding in Mindanao. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.; AP, AFP, Reuters*

Senate got fewer ballot boxes than House from ARMM

By TJ Burgonio

DID ANY BALLOT BOXES CONTAINING election returns disappear in transit to Congress from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao after last year's presidential election?

This question cropped up yesterday when the Senate found out that instead of receiving exactly the same number of ballot boxes from the ARMM as the House of Representatives, it received only 65, three less than the 68 received by the lower chamber.

The discrepancy came to light at the Senate inquiry into the alleged disappearance of 150 ballot boxes at the Batasan complex in Quezon City that were supposed to have been turned over to the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

The discrepancy takes on significance because it involves election returns the ARMM, the region where the alleged poll-rigging activities uncovered by the "Hello, Garci" tapes were supposed to have taken place.

House Sergeant-at-Arms Bayani Fabic and Deputy Secretary General Artemio Adaza begged off from the hearing, citing a related case before the PET.

The inquiry was an offshoot of Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.'s privilege speech on Sept. 27, calling for an inquiry into the alleged disappearance of ballot boxes which he said could jeopardize the electoral protest of former Sen. Loren Legarda.

Legarda, running mate of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. who lost to President Macapagal-Arroyo in the official count, has a pending protest case against Vice President Noli de Castro, whom she accused of vote fraud before the PET.

At the inquiry, the Senate secretariat, upon the request of Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, reported that the chamber received 65 ballot boxes from the ARMM provinces of Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. This was fewer than the 68 ballot boxes received by the House, Legarda's lawyer, Sixto Brillantes, pointed out, citing House's records.

Osmeña said that since both chambers had nearly the same number of ballot boxes, "The shenanigan could not have happened in the House."

"If that's the case, the anomaly came from the transmittal of the Comelec personnel to the Senate from the ARMM. And there are several election returns from ARMM which are missing," Brillantes said.

Pimentel commented that while the discrepancy appeared to be slight, the implications could be graver because the three missing boxes contained 75 election returns representing the votes of 15,000 voters.

In view of the discrepancy, Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the inquiry, directed the Senate secretariat to obtain a formal inventory of ERs in the House, the Senate, the Commission on Elections and the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections.

Filipino doll fetches $1,300

By Volt Contreras

A BARBIE SHE MAY NOT BE, BUT A LIFE-saver she most certainly is.

A doll dressed up by Philippine fashion guru Pitoy Moreno emerged among the biggest sellers at a recent United Nations fund-raiser, fetching $1,300 to buy life-saving vaccines for impoverished children throughout the world.

Called "Binibining Pilipina," Moreno's creation had on a Maria Clara gown of heavily embroidered piña fabric at the Oct. 12 auction held by the UN Children's Fund or Unicef. The affair was held at the Pantheon of the Czech Republic's National Museum in Prague, according to a report from Ambassador Carmelita Salas released by the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

The only two higher bids went to dolls designed by the Italian fashion house Prada and Israel's Michal Negrin, both highly popular brands in Prague, the envoy said. She did not say, however, how much they fetched.

The Philippine Embassy had approached Moreno to lend his touch and represent the country's support for the Unicef project, to which he responded "with great generosity of spirit and impeccable fashion sense," Salas recounted.

The "Binibining Pilipina" doll, which was sold for 31,000 Czech crowns (roughly $1,300 or P72,000), was one of 17 dolls auctioned off under Unicef's "Adopt a Doll and Save a Child" vaccination campaign.

Most of the buyers were members of the Czech business community.

The Czech edition of the Unicef program raised a total of $9,800—roughly equivalent to the cost of vaccinating 375 children in developing countries, the DFA said.

With shots costing $20 per child, the tots could be protected from the "six most fatal" childhood diseases—polio, tuberculosis, tetanus, measles, whooping cough and rubella, according to the Unicef website.

For the past 20 years, vaccines have protected nearly three-quarters of the world's children against major childhood illnesses, said Unicef. Yet every year, more than two million children still die from diseases that could have been prevented with inexpensive vaccines.

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More students may have faked way into college

By Alcuin Papa

At LEAST 10 MORE STUDENTS WERE found to have falsified the results of their high school equivalency tests so they could go on to college, the Department of Education said yesterday.

DepEd officer in charge Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo said the National Educational Testing and Research Center had received complaints that the documents submitted by 10 students, aside from La Salle basketball player Mark Benitez, to their college, had been allegedly doctored.

NETRC director Nelia Benito confirmed to Hidalgo that Benitez' Philippine Education Placement Test Certificate of Rating (PEPTCR), together with that of 10 other students, were fake.

The PEPTCR is an examination a student may take "in absence of a high school diploma." It is administered by the NETRC.

Hidalgo did not identify the students or their schools or say if any of them were athletes.

She said that former DepEd Assistant Secretary Mario Bravo had started an investigation into the fake documents early this year but it was stopped after he left the department. She added that the students in question had refused to talk to investigators about the cases.

"We will continue with the investigation. They will destroy the image of the department. We don't want to be a 'Recto' here," Hidalgo said, referring to the avenue in the University Belt where it is said anyone can get any document for a price.

She also did not discount the possibility that the document falsification was an inside job. "We need to find out if the doctoring was done by the students or if they were in cahoots with an insider."

Hidalgo said that if the investigation revealed that DepEd employees were involved, the department would not hesitate to file the corresponding charges.

As for the liability of the schools in question Hidalgo said they would have to determine if the documents were received by the schools "in good faith."

She said the DepEd had issued a memorandum calling on officials to scrutinize closely the documents submitted by their students.

Recently, officials of De La Salle University admitted that one of their basketball players, Mark Benitez, had submitted spurious documents to gain entry to the school. Because of this, the DLSU administration has offered to return the UAAP 2004 basketball championship trophy.

Noli orders halt to demolition

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO HAS ORdered a temporary halt to the demolition of shanties along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City in the wake of a clash last week between a group of squatters and demolition crews of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

De Castro told the INQUIRER he had instructed the Home Guarantee Corporation, the agency tasked with relocating the 81 squatter families in the area, to initiate a dialogue between the remaining squatters and the MMDA so that the original terms of the relocation plan could be followed. At least 55 families had already been relocated peacefully prior to the clash, De Castro said.

De Castro said the squatters and the HGC had agreed that the squatters themselves would dismantle their shanties so they could salvage some materials for use in their new homes at the relocation site in Rodriguez, Rizal. Last week, however, the MMDA teams proceeded with the demolition work immediately upon their arrival, forcing the angry residents to fight back.

"*Iyon ang naging problema. Payag na silang malipat pero gusto nila sila ang boluntaryong mag-aalis ng mga bahay nila. Ang problema nasabayan ng MMDA kaya nagkagulo* (That was the problem. They had agreed to the relocation but they wanted to dismantle their homes themselves. The problem was that the MMDA did its thing at the same time, thus the trouble)," De Castro said.

The Vice President, however, denied a television report that he had ordered a stop to all squatter-clearing operations in Metro Manila. He said he could not order the MMDA to stop its own clearing operations, such as those for road widening, as he had authority only over agencies such as the HGC that fall under the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, which he chairs. *Cynthia D. Balana*

Defense pushes Erap transfer to San Juan

By Nelson F. Flores

THE LAWYERS OF FORMER PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to allow his transfer from his Tanay, Rizal, detention estate to his San Juan, Metro Manila, home to facilitate their preparations for his nearing court appearance.

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag told the court the distance between Tanay and Metro Manila made it difficult for the defense lawyers, as well as potential witnesses, to confer with Estrada on matters concerning his defense.

After the hearing, Saguisag told reporters the "distance problem" could be remedied by transferring Estrada to his Polk Street home. He said security would not be a problem since the residence was easy to secure.

Saguisag said Estrada would be taking the witness stand soon and it was important that he be given every opportunity to prove his innocence.

"That is part of due process," he said.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio agreed but he said Estrada should be transferred not to Polk Street but back to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where his security could be assured and his health could be monitored.

Villa-Ignacio pointed out that it was Estrada's own lawyers who had sought his detention in Tanay.

Opposition Rep. Arnulfo Fuentebella, meanwhile, affirmed yesterday the earlier testimony of Cavite Rep. Crispin Remulla that Estrada had filed a leave of absence in a letter to both houses of Congress at the height of the Edsa II revolt of January 2001 that threw him out of office.

The testimony of Fuentebella, who was House Speaker when Estrada was ousted, bolstered the claim of the defense that the former Chief Executive was prematurely deprived of his presidential immunity when the government filed plunder and perjury charges against him in 2001.

Estrada's term, according to his lawyers, ended in 2004.

Villa-Ignacio declined to cross-examine Fuentebella, saying his testimony was irrelevant to the case against Estrada.

RP measure on Somalia gets UN nod

THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY Council has approved a Philippine-drafted measure aimed at averting a fresh wave of violence in Somalia, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

The 15-nation Security Council on Saturday unanimously adopted Resolution 1630 after it was endorsed by Ambassador Lauro Baja, the Philippines' permanent representative to the UN. Resolution 1630 revives the UN team that monitors the enforcement of the arms embargo in the strife-torn African state.

The resolution was prompted by reports of increasing violations of the arms ban, said Baja, who chairs the 751 Sanctions Committee on Somalia.

In its most recent report to the council, UN monitors cited a sharp rise in embargo violations over the past six months, reflecting political tensions between the Transitional Federal Government and opposition forces, and threatening central and southern Somalia with widespread violence.

The resolution underscored the need for the continued monitoring and tightening of the arms embargo by calling for the reestablishment of the watchdog group and giving it another six months, the DFA said.

Volt Contreras

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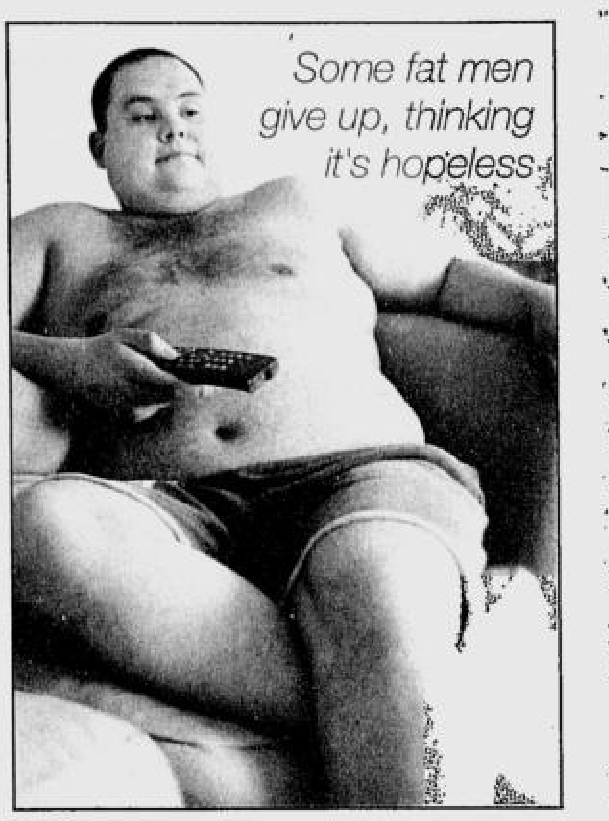
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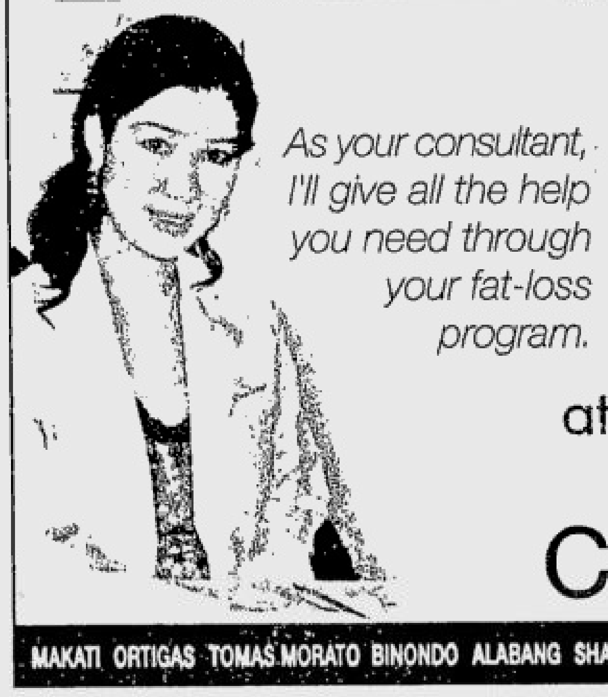
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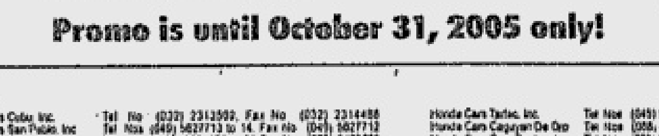

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El Shaddai leader slams CPR policy

From page A1

pines, defended the presence of bishops and priests in Friday's rally, saying they were "acting according to the best of their understanding, out of conviction and deep faith."

But he said that a prelate, "while exhorting his flock to assert their rights, must always remind them that Christians are obliged in all cases to reject vengeance and to be prepared to forgive and to love their enemies."

The 70-year-old Capalla sent his statement from Rome, where he was attending a synod of bishops. It appeared to be an attempt to defuse tensions amid an announcement by organizers of Friday's event that the Church-led group would march on Mendiola again on Thursday.

The El Shaddai leader seemed to be making the same effort.

Velarde called on Ms Arroyo to withdraw immediately her policy of "calibrated preemptive response (CPR)" that had led to a tough police crackdown on protesters in recent weeks and her controversial Executive Order No. 464 banning officials from appearing at congressional hearings.

"I am encouraging all concerned leaders on both sides to come to the conference table to fashion principled cooperation for the sake of our suffering people and for the survival of our democratic tradition," said the 66-year-old Velarde.

SHOCKED and angered by the police dispersal of last Friday's prayer rally, Bro. Mike Velarde has called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to withdraw her policy of calibrated preemptive response (CPR). Just two months ago at the Quirino Grandstand, the President attended Mass celebrating the 21st anniversary of El Shaddai which coincided with Velarde's birthday. RYAN LIM

Offer to mediate

"I am willing to mediate and find a common ground. I plan to talk to her about withdrawing these two—the CPR and EO 464—but the Senate must also show some kind of reconciliatory actions," he said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

"The CPR policy adopted by the administration is not a deterrent to further street demonstrations but rather adds fuel to the present political instability," Velarde said. He said the policy invited more violence in the streets.

"The Filipino psyche is *huwag mong hamunin* (don't provoke their anger)," he said.

"I was shocked, initially, on the first dispersal when it was clearly seen on (television) where the police shoved and mauled an old protester who was pushed in the van," Velarde said.

"And I had talked to the President. I said 'I myself viewed it on television and I was angered by it.' And more so this one (on Mendiola) because I have respected our bishops, and for that matter all religious leaders and our elderly whether they are politicians or ordinary people," Velarde said.

He said the President told him the protesters had provoked the police.

CPR license to abuse

"Arresting them would have been enough, but mauling them? These people were no match to the police ... This CPR policy is giving certain hotheads the license to abuse," Velarde said.

Velarde said that no matter how the protesters provoked the police, the response of the law enforcers during the Mendiola procession was excessive. He said that as long as the protesters were not armed, expressions of dissent should not be curtailed.

"It's a sign of disrespect to our faith and beliefs because no matter what provocation they might have done, the response is not right," he said.

Velarde said the attack on the procession could unite the Church against the administration. He echoed the warning of Bishop Tobias that Ms Arroyo faced a battle with the "Holy Spirit" and she could not win.

"The bishops cannot really keep quiet this time. It will polarize the Church. And the outcome will not be good," he said.

Velarde said that if the bishops come up with a position on the incident, he would be obliged to support them.

Bishop Iñiguez said he expected the CBCP permanent council to discuss Friday's incident in a meeting next week. "That's a factor that we must ponder upon. That may occasion the need for further guidance from the bishops and pastoral leaders."

Velarde earlier proposed some kind of a power-sharing scheme where opposition members could be appointed to the Cabinet. He had talked about his initiative with detained President Joseph Estrada, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Senate President Franklin Drilon and other opposition leaders.

Leader wins enemies

"A good leader wins enemies to her side, not pushing them away and creating more enemies," he said.

"If the administration will just open up to reason I think we'll be able to strike a very workable compromise," he said.

"Those who are bent on pulling her down are also looking for a workable solution because they say their interest really is for the common good," he said.

Velarde said that the Senate should release National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales as a gesture of goodwill.

The official was cited in contempt for refusing to answer questions on a P50-million contract with the Baltimore-based lobby firm Venable LLP to secure US funding to amend the Philippine Constitution. Critics said it invited foreign interference.

Following the Senate's rejection of repeated calls for the release of Gonzales, the President issued the ban on attendance at congressional hearings. She said the hearings were but a continuation of attempts to unseat her. Ms Arroyo escaped impeachment last month over allegations she stole last year's election—a charge she has adamantly denied.

The Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) also criticized the police action, warning that if the government could do it to notable Church leaders, ordinary citizens would prove to be much easier victims.

"The PPCRV condemns the unwarranted public degradation and physical threat dispensed to members of the Church hierarchy," said the group, the Church arm whose 400,000 members monitor elections. It was established by the late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and has seven bishops on its board of advisers.

Sinag, an alliance of around 20 Catholic organizations nationwide, said it was appalled by Ms Arroyo's "blatant arrogance" in dealing with protest actions.

Troopers like mad dogs

"The increasingly violent and brutal treatment of protesters by Gloria's storm troopers is like a mad dog's desperate effort to escape death by its own poison," Sinag convenor Fr. Ben Moraleda told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"Sinag joins the majority of the Filipino people in condemning in the strongest possible manner the violent dispersal by the military of the peaceful rally last Friday."

Also yesterday, Rep. Satur Ocampo accused Ms Arroyo of declaring an all-out war against Bayan Muna when he was singled out as the reason police broke up Friday's procession.

He said he was invited to join the rally although he admitted that leftist groups had been in the forefront of protests.

"I accept that challenge," declared Ocampo. "We use all legal avenues—Congress, Supreme Court and the parliament of the streets—to bring down a fascist, corrupt and illegitimate regime." *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac and Luige A. del Puerto*

Gonzales goes on medical leave

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER Norberto Gonzales, at the center of a political firestorm between President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Senate, has asked for a medical leave and got it, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

Bunye said there was no intention to replace Gonzales, who is reportedly suffering from a heart ailment. But he raised the possibility that an officer in charge would be named to his office.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee that cited Gonzales in contempt, nixed the move as "worthless" and gave no indication Gonzales would be released from Senate custody.

"A medical leave may not mean a leave from his job. Why don't they just follow the (committee) order, identify the donor and the next minute we will release him?" said Arroyo.

The maverick administration senator said Gonzales and Malacañang had first asked for an executive session, then executive privilege, bail and now a medical leave. "What is this? They are playing with words."

Arroyo's committee had cited Gonzales in contempt after he refused to respond to questions during a hearing last month into an agreement he signed on July 25 with the US lobby firm Venable LLP to tap American funding for Ms Arroyo's project to amend the Philippine Constitution.

Critics said the move invited foreign interference in a sovereign undertaking.

Malacañang has accused the committee of shabbily treating Gonzales, who suffered from hypertension as a result of his grilling, prompting his confinement at the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City under Senate custody.

Repeated attempts by Malacañang to secure the release of Gonzales fell on deaf ears.

Following the rebuffs, Ms Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 464, banning government and military officials from attending congressional hearings. Palace officials said the inquiries were nothing more than a continuing attempt to unseat Ms Arroyo, who earlier escaped an impeachment attempt over allegations she stole last year's election.

Gonzales has gone to the Supreme Court with a petition for a writ of habeas corpus for his freedom.

Arroyo himself argued before the high tribunal against his release, insisting that Malacañang either provide answers to the Senate queries on the Venable deal or appoint a representative to attend committee hearings. *Christine O. Avendaño and Gil C. Cabacungan*

CHR tells cops: Protesters were not terrorists

From page A1

POLICE hose down demonstrators led by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., Rep. Satur Ocampo and Fr. Robert Reyes Friday. ERIK ARAZAS

been avoided.

"Our findings show that there were only around 200 participants in the procession. It doesn't take a [CHR] commissioner to say and observe that 200 can't be enough to force President Macapagal-Arroyo out of Malacañang," Soriano said.

The CHR had 11 personnel in the area to monitor developments and their implications on human rights.

"We understand that Malacañang is the seat of power but these are not terrorists. Force should not have been used," Soriano said.

Maximum tolerance

Soriano added that the presence of former Vice President Teofisto Guingona in the gathering should have alerted the antiriot police into easing their so-called calibrated preemptive response [CPR] stance in deference to him.

"It's sad. The attendance of former Vice President Guingona should have prompted police officers to return to maximum tolerance," Soriano said.

The CHR is scheduled to meet with Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao on Wednesday and with officials of the Bureau of Fire Protection, whose firemen turned the jets of water on the protesters.

Was there a fire?

"We want to know why they allowed firetrucks (in the area). What were firemen doing in a rally when [their job is supposedly to put out fires]?" Soriano said.

"We want to know who requested their presence there."

Director Ed Diansuy, head of the CHR public information office, said force should not have been used, whether or not there were VIPs in the public assembly.

"They should not have used force unless there was a clear and present danger," Diansuy said.

Freedom fighter

Friday's forcible dispersal violated the memory of the freedom fighter after whom the historic bridge had been renamed, according to Sen. Alfredo Lim, a former Manila police chief.

Speaking at the Kapihan sa Maynila forum, Lim also said the use of a water cannon on the rally attended by Guigona and three Roman Catholic bishops was "uncalled for," pointing out there had been no violence to warrant such action.

Lim described the late Joaquin "Chino" Roces as a staunch defender of civil liberties.

"Does this mean we are turning our backs on the memory of Don Chino Roces?" he asked during the forum. "We name the bridge after him and yet we don't give importance to its meaning."

The senator also said that in major mass actions, the city's police chief should be on site to talk to the protesters.

Atienza's video footage

The policemen would not have "overreacted" had Manila Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong been present, he said.

Lim, who in his time as a police officer also had confrontations with militants, said the police and the protesters should not view each other as enemies.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who had declared Mendiola a no-rally zone, said the bishops and the religious images the rallyists were carrying when firemen hosed down the group were spared from the water blast.

Atienza defended the use of a water cannon to quell the protest and showed the media video footage of the incident taken by the police.

No disrespect

The footage showed Guingona, former Executive Secretary and ex-Gov. Oscar Orbos and Sen. Jamby Madrigal being drenched.

"Contrary to impressions created by some reports, a review of the footage of the incident showed that the bishops did not join the breakaway group on whom the police trained the water cannon," the mayor said. "This [footage] clearly disproves the allegations that there was an apparent disrespect to the procession and the members of the clergy."

Atienza said the bishops voluntarily dispersed from San Sebastian Church after a prayer assembly but a breakaway group insisted on going to Chino Roces Bridge, saying they wanted to go to San Beda.

No apologies

"A commotion erupted. What do you expect the authorities would do? They would think of ways to ease the situation and pacify the protesters. How would they control such a heated, emotional situation [and prevent it from] getting out of hand?" Atienza said.

"The rule of law has to be maintained all the time."

Atienza said he was sorry the incident happened but added quickly: "But I'm not apologizing, there is nothing to apologize for. We just don't want such incidents happening in Manila."

Atienza also said that the city council would soon enact an "adjusted ordinance" that would include provisions defining the city's freedom parks.

"We can never allow rallies to be held near Malacañang Palace. This, too, will be cited in the ordinance so we could avoid incidents of the past," he said.

Cut down on calls–GMA

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS ordered all public employees to change their "telebabad" ways after the government racked up P3.73 billion in phone bills last year.

The President ordered the Department of Budget and Management to strictly monitor the government's phone expenses to ensure that only official calls were paid for.

"We expect all government agencies to strictly implement our standing austerity measures. Modern information and communication technologies should be rationalized for speedy and smooth government transactions that maintain the quality of service we deliver to the people," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Malacañang issued the directive yesterday after a Commission on Audit report showed that the government's phone bills jumped to P3.73 billion in 2004 from P3.28 billion the previous year.

The bulk of the increase was traced to the heavy use of cellular phones by the national government (up 50 percent) and local governments (up more than 100 percent).

Aside from cutting down on phone usage, Bunye said the President encouraged government employees to use alternative communication tools that were cheaper and more efficient.

The President was referring to the use of "Voice Over Internet Protocol" technology which allows computer users to communicate in data (chatting), voice and video formats.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

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5	SOFT BLOBS WITH CLEAR CUT EDGES	↑
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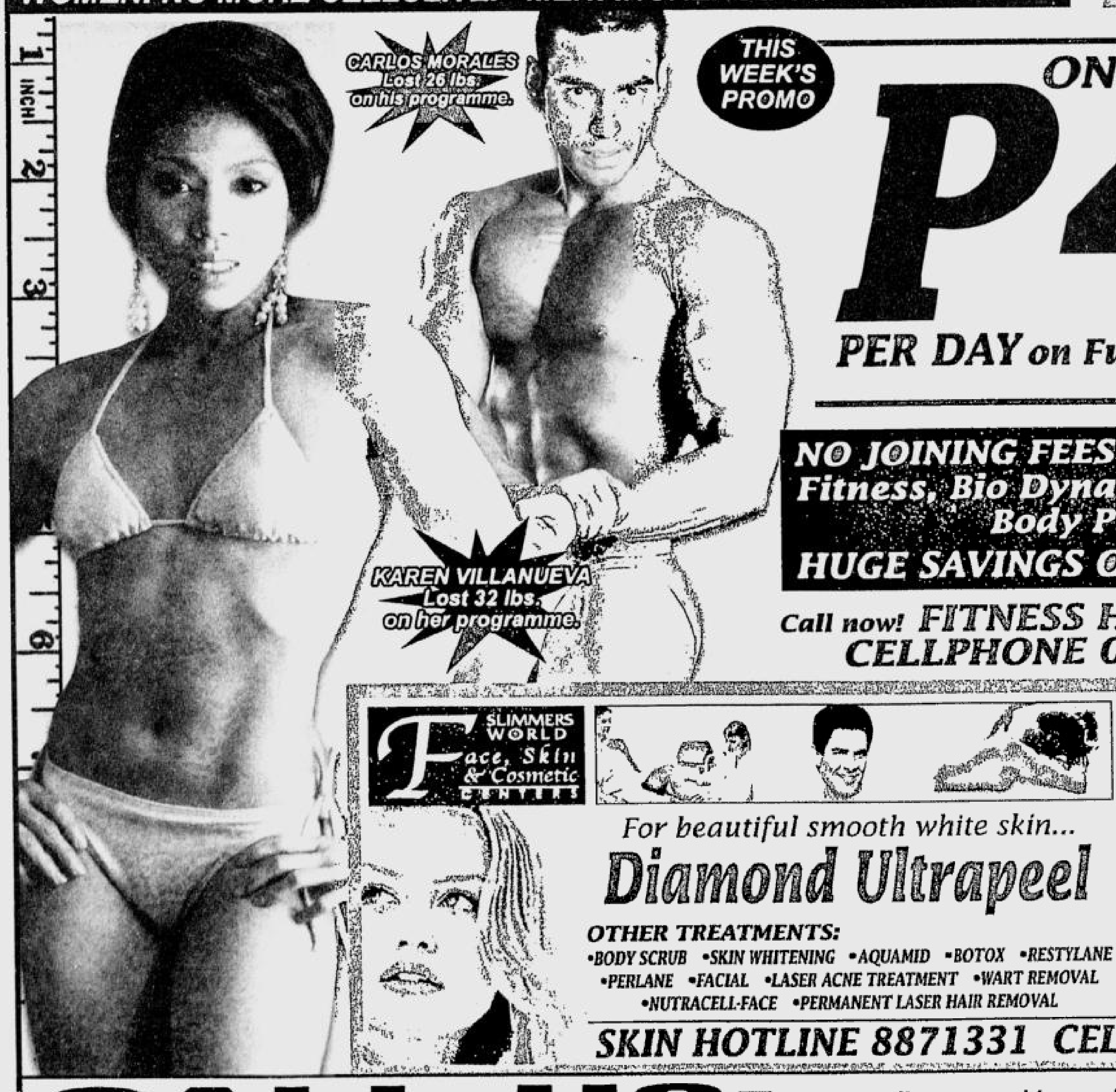
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Muzzling Philippine press won't be easy–Nemenzo

By DJ Yap

MUZZLING THE PHILIPPINE press in this day and age is not impossible if the government is really intent on imposing martial law, according to former University of the Philippines president Francisco Nemenzo.

But he said it would not be easy.

Text messaging and the Internet make it virtually impossible to control the flow of news and information, unlike in 1972, when mobile phones and personal computers were but the stuff of science fiction movies, said the chair of Laban ng Masa, a broad coalition of opposition groups.

President Macapagal-Arroyo might be tantalized by the idea of controlling the media—and what is being said about her government—but she could be forgetting the "weapons of the weak," Nemenzo said.

These weapons are simple communication technologies, ranging from text messaging to Internet chat and e-mail, which were not available during the martial law period under dictator Ferdinand Marcos, he said.

"In the 1970s, militants relied on word of mouth. Marcos had a firm grip" on the mainstream media, Nemenzo said.

Today, Ms Arroyo may still be able to control newspapers and television stations, but she will find it very difficult to control SMS (short messaging service or texting), especially with millions of text-loving and mobile phone-lugging Filipinos, he said.

Nemenzo said the government might be floating the idea of a takeover of vital industries "in a state of national emergency" but it could actually be targeting the media, particularly those critical of her administration.

He said this was as bad an idea as imposing martial law. "But she might be crazy enough to do that."

He said imposing martial law would not work because Ms Arroyo's situation was not comparable to Marcos'. He noted that Marcos had full control of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in 1972. In contrast, Ms Arroyo's command over the military is crumbling, he said.

"She might only be provoking" her enemies, including disenchanted sectors within the Armed Forces, Nemenzo said.

He has proposed installing a "revolutionary transitional government" that will be representative of all sectors and remove power from the elite, in the event that Ms Arroyo is ousted.

Yesterday, he headed the "Working People's Summit," which sought to go back to the grass roots in solving the country's ills.

Attended by hundreds of community leaders from several cause-oriented and progressive groups, the summit, held on the campus of UP Diliman, tackled issues besetting women, urban transport workers, peasants, fisherfolk, Muslims and youth.

Nemenzo said his group was planning small pockets of protest in the countryside to counter the government's more aggressive treatment of demonstrators.

Their "calibrated people's response" will show that Ms Arroyo no longer enjoys the support not only of Metro Manila but of the whole country, he said.

Opposition says Palace out to control media

From page A1

In the executive order, the President justified the transfer "by virtue of the powers vested in me by law," citing Executive Order No. 292 (Administrative Code of 1987), which "grants the President continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the executive branch."

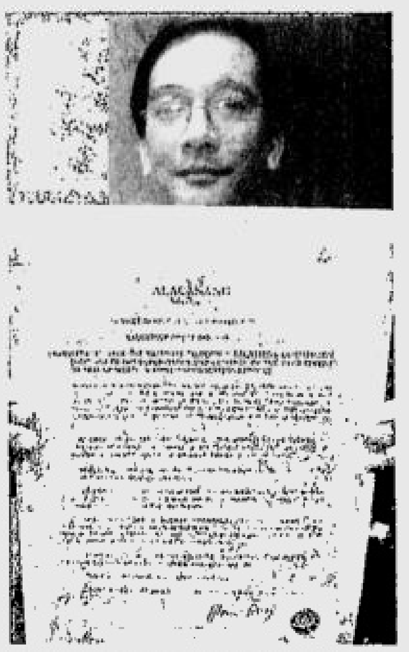
The NTC was created in 1979 under the "supervision and control" of the DOTC's forerunner, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. In January 2004, supervision of the NTC was transferred to the Commission on Information Communications Technology.

However, Ms Arroyo said transferring the NTC back to the DOTC "will streamline bureaucracy operations."

Possible violations

Escudero pointed out that the executive order violated two laws—Rule 43 of the Rules of Court and the NTC's Charter Republic Act No. 7925.

Rule 43 allows final judgment of quasi-judicial agencies such as the NTC to be questioned before the Court of Appeals whether the "appeal involves questions of fact, of law, or mixed questions of fact and law."



REP. Rolex Suplico shows a copy of Executive Order No. 454 placing the National Telecomunnications Commission under the control of the Department of Transportation and Communication. JOAN BONDOC

RA 7925 says the "DOTC shall not exercise any power, which will tend to influence or effect a review or a modification of the commission's quasi-judicial functions."

Because of the EO, decisions of the NTC "are now appealable to Malacañang," thus "everything is controlled by Malacañang now," Suplico said.

Before, the DOTC had mere supervision over the agency, "now it has additional power to control it," he said.

Going overboard

For his part, Guingona said Ms Arroyo was now going overboard in her attempt to quell restiveness among Filipinos.

Escudero questioned the timing of the EO's issuance, saying that the EO had not been even published.

"We call upon and challenge Malacañang to be transparent so that fears of the people will be assuaged. The last time an EO such as this was issued was during Marcos' time. The Palace should release to the public all EOs it had issued since (2001)," he said. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

For Financial Advisory Services

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) intends to hire a financial adviser to assist in the preparation of its Portfolio of Non-Performing Accounts (NPAs) for eventual sale for an eight (8) month contract with an approved budget in the amount of Philippine Pesos: Thirteen Million (PhP 13,000,000.00) for base fees which is exclusive of budget for transaction success fees, other fees and expenses for legal advisers, local appraisers and printing/copying firms, and out-of-pocket expenses.

In this regard, DBP is inviting interested local and foreign firms to submit letter of interest to participate in the public bidding for financial advisory services to assist DBP in preparing for its NPA portfolio sale.

The financial adviser must be a firm with at least three (3) years of experience in providing consulting/advisory and implementation assistance to holders of portfolios of distressed assets. To further determine the eligibility of interested financial advisers, they shall submit certain legal, technical and financial documents. List of said required documents and Letter of Interest form may be obtained by interested parties from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. not later than October 27, 2005 at the Secretariat, DBP Bids & Awards Committee (BAC), 6th Floor, DBP Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City. Interested parties are invited to a Briefing on the Eligibility Requirements on October 28, 2005, 10: 00 a.m. at the Suite 5, DBP Executive Lounge.

Interested parties shall submit five (5) copies of Letter of Interest (LOI) together with all required documents for eligibility to the Secretariat of the DBP Bids & Awards Committee as mentioned above not later than 3:00 p.m. of November 4, 2005, or next working day, if November 4, 2005 is declared a public holiday.

Invitations to Bid for the financial advisory services will be issued to eligible bidders on November 11, 2005. Eligible bidders interested to participate in the selection process and to submit proposals will be required to secure the bidding documents for a non-refundable fee of Philippine Pesos: Ten Thousand (PhP10,000.00) in the form of cash, manager's check or cashier's check from the DBP BAC Secretariat, not later than 3:00 p.m. of November 14, 2005.

Pre-bidding Conference shall be scheduled on November 15, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. Eligible bidders shall be required to submit technical and financial proposals simultaneously not later than 3:00 p.m. of November 22, 2005. Evaluation of the eligible bidders shall make use of the quality-cost method under RA 9184 wherein the technical proposals shall be evaluated first and only the financial proposals of the financial advisers who meet the minimum technical rating shall be opened. Eligible bidders shall be ranked in descending order based on the combined numerical ratings of their technical and financial proposals to be given weights of 80% and 20%, respectively.

DBP reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

DBP Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 18 & 25, 2005)

Warrior is now preacher

From page A1

volvement of the military in the rigging of the May 2004 elections.

"Being a Christian means having everything," Gudani said during a fellowship with the Building Bridges Christian Ministry in Makati on Sunday night as he began his work as a preacher.

But the soldier in him could not be disguised as he sprinkled his sermon with military jargon.

A "good shepherd" takes his flock to quiet waters, so much like "bringing food to the front lines," Gudani said.

He described his activities now as "spiritual warfare."

Brother Frank

Garbed in a barong Tagalog with a a miniature Philippine flag patch on his left chest, Gudani was introduced to the fellowship simply as "Brother Frank."

Gudani, who said he preferred to be simply called Mr. Gudani, sang and clapped to the beat of the bouncy Gospel songs belted out by his son Ryan.

In the Senate defense committee hearing of Sept. 28, Gudani said he was one of the generals mentioned in the controversial "Hello, Garci" tapes, the wiretapped telephone conversations in which President Macapagal-Arroyo allegedly directed an election commissioner to rig the 2004 presidential election.

Just hours after the hearing, Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, removed Gudani from his post as assistant superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

Lt. Col. Alex Balutan, who also appeared at the Senate, was relieved as assistant commandant of PMA cadets.

Gudani was the commander of the Marine brigade with jurisdiction over the Lanao areas, while Balutan was a battalion commander under Gudani during the May 2004 elections.

Gudani and Balutan face possible court-martial proceedings for insubordination. But no formal charges have been filed against them yet.

Brush with death

A 1973 PMA graduate, Gudani said he "accepted the Lord" while he was a battalion commander in 1989.

He said he was ambushed in December that year. It was his third close brush with death, but the first time that he "did not feel fear," he said.

Gudani even remembered daring his enemies to "show up, so I can use my shooting skills."

His life has changed dramatically after his Senate testimony.

Birthday celebrations

He retired upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56 on Oct. 4, a birthday which was marked by more fanfare than his past birthdays.

"I celebrated my birthday six times," Gudani laughed, recalling how friends and fellow worshippers feted him for coming out with the truth.

One of his birthday parties was held at Chaquico's, a music bar on Makati Avenue which is converted into a "worship place" every Sunday by the Building Bridges Christian Ministry.

Accompanied by a pianist, Gudani sang "People Need the Lord," a song about how living in Christian values can fill an empty life.

"Contemplate the lyrics, not the singer," Gudani joked before breaking into song.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development – Bicol
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTTEE
Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054)473-2334; (054)473-89-36 Fax no. (054)473-89-36; (054)473-2334; (054)8112227
E-mail Address: slopez_bmc@yahoo.com Website http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1 The BICOL MEDICAL CENTER through General Appropriations Act of 2006 intends to apply specified sums for the following projects:

a. Project: Procurement of Medical Gases-(IAEB No. 2005-012)
Approved Budget for the Contract THREE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY EIGHT THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWENTY Philippine Pesos (Php 3,838,920.00) (GAA)

Sale of Bid Documents	October 5-20, 2005
Pre-Bid Conference	October 20, 2005 – 9:00AM-BMC Library
Bid Opening	November 3, 2005 - 9:00AM-BMC Library

b. Project: Procurement of Janitorial Services – (IAEB No. 2005-013)
Approved Budget for the Contract FOUR MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND Philippine Pesos (Php4,800,000.00) (GAA)

Sale of Bid Documents	October 5-20, 2005
Pre-Bid Conference	October 21, 2005 – 9:00AM-BMC Library
Bid Opening	November 4, 2005 - 9:00AM-BMC Library

c. Project: Procurement of Security Services – (IAEB No.2005-014)
Approved Budget for the Contract TWO MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND Philippine Pesos (PHP2,500,000.00) (GAA)

Sale of Bid Documents	October 5-20, 2005
Pre-Bid Conference	October 21, 2005 – 9:00AM-BMC Library
Bid Opening	November 4, 2005 – 2:00 PM-BMC Library

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening

2. The BICOL MEDICAL CENTER now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated projects. Delivery of Goods required as stated in the Special Conditions of the Contract for each project.

The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No 9184 (R A 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from BICOL MEDICAL CENTER and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00A.M. to 12:00Noon; 1:00P.M. to 5:00P.M., except weekends and Holidays.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents for each project may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of TWO THOUSAND Philippine Pesos (PhP2,000.00). The method of payment will be in the form of Cash The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address, date and time stated above. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, in the amount at least equal to and not lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency:
   1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)
   2. Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC)
   3. Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)

Late bids shall not be accepted

7 Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below

8 The BICOL MEDICAL CENTER reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

Contact Address BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
Concepcion Pequeña, Naga City
Telephone Nos (054)473-2334, (054)473-89-36
E-mail Address slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax no (054)473-89 36, (054)473 2334, (054)811-2227
Website http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

Contact Person RODOLFO C URSUA, MD, FPCS FPUA
Medical Specialist II and BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) RODOLFO C. URSUA, MD, FPCS,FPUA
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Oct 12 & 18, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Social Security System

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

JANITORIAL SERVICES

Two-year Janitorial Services for SSS Western Visayas Cluster

1. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM WESTERN VISAYAS CLUSTER*, through its 2005-2007 Building Maintenance/Repair – Janitorial Services, intends to apply the sum of Php 4,308,435.79 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Two-year Janitorial Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Janitorial Services – *[Twenty Three (23) Janitorial service personnel for distribution to SSS Western Visayas Branches, as follows: Bacolod(10), Bago(1), Sagay(1), Kabankalan(1), Victorias(1), San Carlos(1), Iloilo(3), Antique(1), Aklan(1), Roxas(1), Bais(1), Dumaguete(1)]* required within a two-year period after contract signing. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section I of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, Western Visayas Cluster, Bacolod City* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8 AM TO 5 PM.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *Php 1,000.00*. The method of payment will be on a cash basis, payable at the SSS Cashiering Section, Ground Floor, SSS Bacolod Branch Bldg., upon accomplishment of SSS Form R-6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on November 10, 2005, 2.00 PM, at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, SSS Bacolod Branch Bldg., Lacson Street, Bacolod City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *8:30 A.M., of November 23, 2005*. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in Cash or Manager's / Cashier's check payable to the Social Security System amounting to Php 43,084.36 (1% of ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on *November 23, 2005 , 9:30 A.M.* at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, SSS Bacolod Branch Bldg., Lacson Street, Bacolod City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

The Secretariat
Bid and Awards Committee-WV Cluster
Administrative Section,
2nd Floor, SSS Building,
Lacson Street, Bacolod City
Tel # (034) 709-0880; (034) 435-0161
Facsimile number – (034) 434-5130

(Sgd.) ATTY. MA. ELENA M. LOCSIN
BAC-WV Chairperson

(PDI - October 18, 2005)

Breakthrough: High-yield rice that grows on dry soil

From page A1

fertilizer, with traditional but low-yield ones that grow on dry soil.

Some lines are now being tested in drought-prone areas of Asia, the institute said.

Following the breakthrough sequencing of the rice genome, scientists have also created more than 40,000 varieties on which chemicals or radiation were used to knock out random segments of the rice chromosome.

The resulting plants, which the institute calls "deletion mutants," are screened under drought stress in the field, or with the application of drought-related hormones in the laboratory, to identify drought-tolerant or drought-susceptible mutants.

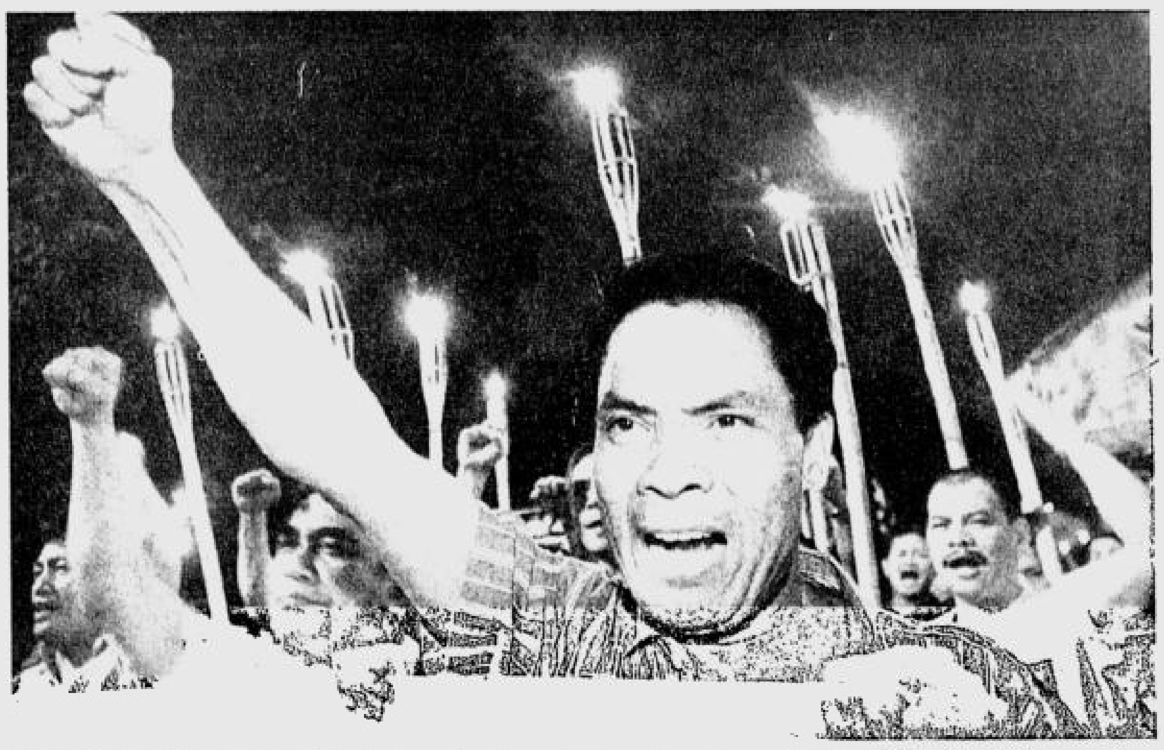
Work is also under way to identify which deleted genes are responsible for this effect, it added.

The rice plant traditionally requires lots of water during its reproductive stage. If conditions are dry, it reduces production of gibberellin, the hormone that stimulates the panicle, or the flower, to fully emerge from the leaf sheath, as well as pollen release. This results in reduced yields.

The impact of dry spells is often felt throughout the Asia region, adversely affecting the local economy, the paper quoted senior agricultural economist Sushil Pandey as saying.

"And if the local economy isn't functioning well . . . you have a cumulative effect," Pandey said.

"When people are unable to pay off their loans, they go deeper and deeper into debt, ultimately losing their land and whatever else they own, and become completely destitute." AFP



PROTESTERS clench their fists during a torch parade to call for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Quezon City on Monday. AP

EDWIN BACASMAS

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo alights from her bullet-proof vehicle to visit the newly constructed PNP outpost, the Botika ng Barangay and "Serbisyo Muna" projects in Diego Silang, Barangay Pasong Tamo, Quezon City.

FVR to elderly protesters: Don't let yourselves be used

By Nikko Dizon

FROM ONE SENIOR CITIZEN TO fellow elderlies—beware.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos yesterday advised former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and other elderly protesters not to allow themselves to be used by the "masterminds" of the campaign to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Senior citizens of this country should not allow themselves to be used for baiting activities of radicals because that's not their proper role anymore," Ramos said in an airport press conference.

Ramos arrived from Hong Kong after attending the Asia Educational Forum in Beijing, China.

"This only entraps our law enforcers, especially the Philippine National Police, into situations which are very complex and difficult and would almost certainly have a negative impact on the government," Ramos said.

The former President said that there were certainly "ring leaders and masterminds" hiding behind the backs of Guingona and other prominent protesters.

Creating mileage

"[They were] using people to create mileage for their activities," Ramos said.

Guingona, three elderly Roman Catholic bishops and other prominent personalities were with hundreds of protesters marching in a procession near Mendiola (Don Chino Roces) Bridge on Friday when antiriot forces unleashed jets of water on the group as part of the government's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy.

Ramos likened the incident to the May Day 2001 siege of Malacañang in which, he said, the anti-Arroyo masterminds used the urban poor as cannon fodder.

Challenge to leaders

"Where were the leaders? They were not there. That's why that failed. The urban poor was their bait then. Now their strategy is to use the senior citizens," the 78-year-old Ramos said.

Ramos challenged the anti-Arroyo masterminds, including those financing the protests, to come out from behind the elderly protesters and be the ones "up front" in the rallies.

Asked if he would name the masterminds, Ramos replied in Filipino: "I don't know who they are, that's why I am saying this, so they would come out."

Still, Ramos said that it was the right of Guingona and the other senior citizens to join street protests if they wanted to.

Nothing new

He brushed aside Guingona's statement that the incident violated the protesters' human rights and that they would file a complaint before the United Nations.

"What else is new? There are thousands of people from 192 countries who claim that their governments have violated their human rights. We have our own human rights commission here. Perhaps the mileage is better at the UN," Ramos said.

But Ramos also advised the Arroyo administration to "protect itself, its credibility, integrity and safety" in light of the mounting street protests.

"The government must also find the proper and tolerant way to control any situation so that it will not go out of hand," Ramos said.

The operative word in the government's reaction should be "preemptive" and not "calibrated," he said.

Taking the initiative

Ramos said the government should initiate talks between officials and protesters to avoid violent clashes.

But for the retired Armed Forces general, amending the Constitution is still the best way out of the current political crisis.

"What's the best solution to this? The accelerated Charter change. Let us dance the Cha-cha according to the tempo that it is designed for—fast, lively, joyful," Ramos said.

"It should not be danced like the foxtrot or the rigodon na *urong-sulong* (to and fro)," he said.

People fed up with protests, says GMA

From page A1

nga iyon para maka-diyaryo sila (some who were sprayed with water may have wanted it so they would land in the papers)," he said.

Although the action of the police was "justified," Gonzalez said he was not sure if it was a "commensurate reaction" to what was described as a peaceful rally.

"They may have over-reacted, so we should investigate it," he said.

Asked whether Friday's incident could affect the ties of the Palace with the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, Gonzalez replied: "It could, but at the same time, certain calculated risks have to be taken."

"The government cannot just lay on its back and let these people walk all over it," he said, when asked if the government would now stop implementing its calibrated preemptive response policy on dissenters.

He said the President could now be working to mend fences with CBCP officials who maintain an "open line" of communication with the Palace.

Gonzalez said the government in fact had to "bend over backwards" to give the protesters all the leeway to freely exercise their rights.

Gonzalez also accused the three bishops and all those who took part in the rally of "hypocrisy," saying they acted in "bad faith" when they applied for a permit for Plaza Miranda but later proceeded to Mendiola.

To prevent another incident, he asked the bishops and the opposition to initiate a dialogue with the Palace to set parameters for future rallies.

But he said this should be premised on the protesters promising to comply with the government's "no permit, no rally" policy.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye also reacted sharply to a statement by Bishop Antonio Tobias on Sunday that the government's policy on protesters was forcing the bishops to take a unified stand against Ms Arroyo.

No fight with Church

"There is no such thing as a looming fight between the Palace and the Church," Bunye said in a statement.

"We call upon the people not to join the so-called religious processions instigated for political ends by those thirsting for earthly powers," Bunye said.

"Don't be used by these pretenders and hypocrites," he added.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Friday's rally was not solely a religious activity.

Referring to the presence of Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo and other groups identified with the Left in the rally, Ermita said: "Can we believe that this group has suddenly become very religious, as they joined the priests and bishops known to be detractors of the President?"

"I think it's testing our intelligence too much—that the rally was not only a religious activity with a political component," he said in an interview over dzRH radio.

Ermita asked protesters not to provoke and challenge the authorities. He assailed groups planning to march on Freedom Park near Malacañang to hold a rally there this week.

Majority have rights as well

"What they're saying is that we plan to storm the park, so be prepared," he said. Ermita said that authorities would have to act to prevent any untoward incident.

That's why, Ermita said, the government earlier announced its new CPR policy in order to remind protesters that while they had a right to air their grievances, the large majority also had their rights.

"*Sa bawat isang daan na nagdedemonstrate ay libo-libo yong napeperhuwisyo* (For every 100 demonstrators, thousands are being hassled)," Bunye said.

Bunye said the protesters who tried to march on Mendiola without a permit were heading to a place where there were thousands of students who would be greatly affected by a rally there.

Ermita made the same observation, saying that since the Mendiola massacre in the 1980s, authorities in Manila had decided to prohibit the staging of rallies there.

"Because we know that if ralliers want to go to Mendiola, they want to storm Malacañang," he said. "They want to destabilize the administration and show that they are a strong force," Ermita said.

Ermita said that National Capital Region Director Vidal Querol had ordered the putting up of concertina wire to prevent the entry of demonstrators to JP Laurel Street and Mendiola near Malacañang.

March premeditated

He said that a police antiriot unit would be dispatched in the event groups tried to approach these areas.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles told the INQUIRER that Friday's dispersal was just one case of some clergymen and Church people allying themselves with certain politicians. "It's not a case of the Church versus the state," Nograles said.

Malabon-Navotas Rep. Federico Sandoval II, vice chair of the House committee on appropriations, said the outcome of the procession to Mendiola en route to San Beda College was surely known to the marchers.

"(They) were fully aware of the consequences of their unauthorized march. Had the rally been held somewhere else and not Mendiola, the outcome would have been different," Sandoval said.

"Causing a rift between the administration and the Church is part and parcel of the opposition's malicious plot to oust the President," said Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas. "But most of our Church leaders have a deep sense of discernment," he added.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago also took up the cudgels for Malacañang.

"No religious can serve to camouflage law disobedience by invoking freedom of religion. That would be creeping theocracy," said Santiago, a staunch ally of Ms Arroyo.

But she said the few bishops who participated in the procession did not represent the sentiments of the entire Catholic Church.

No special treatment

Santiago said the Constitution prohibited special treatment of one religion in particular, and of all religions in general.

"When (bishops) avail of a citizen's rights, they should be treated like all other citizens. No citizen has a right to hold a rally in any place other than that designated in the rally permit. The terms of the permit cannot be changed by the mere use of the term prayer rally," Santiago said.

Lomibao's lament: Media report ...

From page A1

General Arturo Lomibao.

Facing a firestorm of criticism over police use of a water cannon to disperse a Church-led protest march near Malacañang last weekend, Lomibao yesterday lamented that newspapers and broadcast networks were too focused on the "errors" of his men, missing out on their good deeds.

Instead of perennially "projecting the mistakes and cases against policemen," Lomibao suggested that the media do more stories about ordinary cops who solve cases beyond the call of duty.

Or about cops working at airports who routinely and quietly return lost items to passengers.

"Sometimes [stories like these] get published. Sometimes they get to be noticed," he said. "But more often than not, they don't."

Fair reporting

Rather than project only the mistakes of policemen, "maybe there should be balanced reporting," he said.

Lomibao unburdened himself after lawmakers and clergymen accused the police of employing Marcosian tactics in dispersing peaceful anti-Arroyo demonstrations.

The issue of alleged police suppression of civil liberties grabbed headlines after the PNP adopted its controversial policy of calibrated preemptive response (CPR).

Antiriot police forces have used the CPR to break up protests demanding the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo on grounds that they had no official permits.

Latest victims of CPR

The CPR victims in Friday's procession-cum-protest to Malacañang included no less than former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, three Roman Catholic bishops, former Gov. Oscar Orbos, several members of Congress, nuns and priests and leftwing militants.

The police said a "breakaway group" of marchers provoked them by rushing toward Don Chino Roces (Mendiola) Bridge, which local officials had declared off-limits to protesters.

"We have to apply what is in the law," Lomibao said. "There is no ifs or buts here. There should be equal treatment, equal protection [for all]."

Ready for any UN case

Lomibao said the PNP was ready to answer complaints which the protesters said they would lodge with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

"It is within their prerogative," Lomibao said. "It is also our prerogative to answer it, in case we will be made to answer it."

"We are ready. We welcome any kind of investigation, any kind of inquiry on the matter."

Religious worship

The Counsels for the Defense of Liberties (Codal) said Metro Manila Police chief Director Vidal Querol and police officers who hosed down the protesters could be held criminally liable for stopping a religious act.

Codal president Neri Javier Colmenares said the dispersal of the prayer rally violated Article 132 of the Revised Penal Code, which penalizes the interruption of acts of religious worship.

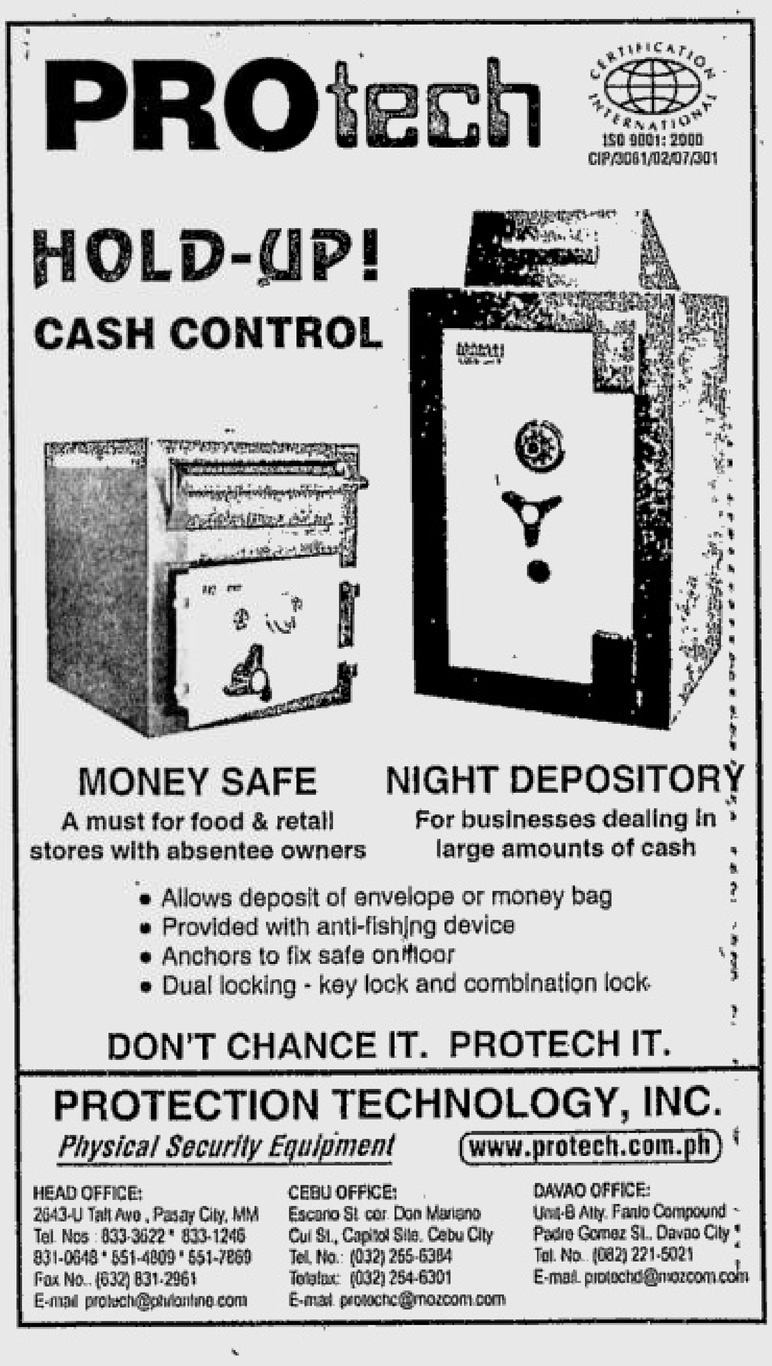
He said the policemen also violated Article 133 of the RPC which provides for the arrest of "anyone who in a place devoted to religious worship or during the celebration of any religious ceremony shall perform acts notoriously offensive to the feelings of the faithful."

"Hosing down the religious procession, including the statue of the Virgin Mary, is most notoriously offensive to Catholics, an act that no Philippine president, except President Gloria Arroyo, has ever committed," Colmenares said in a statement.

He said the police could not "hide behind the unconstitutional BP (Batasang Pambansa) 880" because this law did not sanction the dispersal of a peaceful rally.

Colmenares said the only time the State could intervene in an assembly was if it were threatening the rights of other people to life, liberty and equal protection of the law.

"The peaceful procession did not threaten the right of others to life, liberty and equal protection," he said.



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Quake deaths soar past 50,000

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN—HELICOPTERS RACED MONDAY to reach thousands of Pakistan's earthquake survivors desperate for food, tents and blankets in near freezing weather as an official said the death toll had soared past 50,000.

Sikandar Hayat Khan, the prime minister of the Pakistani side of the divided region of Kashmir, said the death toll could rise much higher in his region as the military and relief teams reach the outlying mountains.

"With all responsibility, I can say that not less than 40,000 are killed," Khan said late Sunday.

"There are still cities which are not cleared of debris and the death toll could go to 70,000 or 80,000. It is the worst tragedy in our history," he said.

It was a drastic jump from the last government figures that said more than 25,000 people died on the Pakistani side of Kashmir from the brutal Oct. 8 earthquake.

It would mean that more than 54,000 people died in the earthquake. The central government said more than 13,000 people died in Pakistan's adjacent North West Frontier Province. Indian police said 1,329 died in the Indian side of Kashmir.

Sajjad, the Army spokesperson, said that only 700 bodies had been recovered in Muzaffarabad city, of which 506 had not been identified and had been buried in mass graves.

"But there are so many more bodies that we have not recovered yet," he said.

After two days of heavy rain that severely hampered the relief effort, helicopters roared over Muzaffarabad, the ruined capital of Pakistani Kashmir, amid warnings that thousands more people in the mountains were on the verge of death.

"We have many areas not reached yet," Army spokesperson Col. Rana Sajjad said, adding that Army teams were being sent on foot up into the Himalayas carrying sorely needed supplies to the most far-flung areas.

Some 60 teams of about 10 men each had already set off, carrying food and medical supplies, while mule trains were also trying to bypass roads smashed and blocked by the earthquake nine days ago.

"We have started reaching most areas," he said. "The aim is to look after everyone. We are creeping forward."

Despite the bleak outlook, the rescue effort had some good news Sunday when the Army reached an 11-year-old girl orphaned and stricken with polio who had been stranded for eight days amid the rubble in a remote town.

Foul weather had delayed flights on Saturday and forced the cancellation of nearly all of them on Sunday. The clear skies opened the way for flights but also brought new misery to the more than three million earthquake homeless as it made temperatures drop sharply.

Northwest of here in Balakot, a town razed to the ground by the earthquake, the sky was blue over the sea of tents but the weather was close to freezing, with a layer of snow coating distant mountains.

The meteorological department said the temperature was just above zero in the mountains, although in Muzaffarabad it was still at 12 degrees.

Relief groups say that thousands of earthquake survivors face hypothermia, diarrhea and other diseases unless they immediately get bedding and shelter. But Pakistan has said it cannot guarantee that all the homeless will have tents once winter sets in within weeks.

"We have no food, no tents, no blankets. We sleep in the open at night," said Zahoor Ahmed, 34, a resident of the Kashmiri town of Dhani which is now no more than a few tents made from blankets and plastic. "We are suffering."

But at least for the people in the major cities, some parts of life were getting back to normal.

In Muzaffarabad, 40 percent of the electricity supply had been restored while telephone lines and water supply were being reconnected, Sajjad said. *AFP*

A YOUNG earthquake survivor sits on the knees of an elderly man in the earthquake-hit remote area of Balakot, Oct. 17. Thousands of people risk death from cold and disease in the mountains of northern Pakistan as villages ravaged by the massive Oct. 8 7.6-magnitude earthquake desperately need shelter. AFP

Alternative stem cell methods save mice, studies find

WASHINGTON—TWO ALTERNATIVE METHODS for making embryonic stem cells work in mice and might lead to a less controversial way to grow them, researchers reported on Sunday.

But the scientists who did the work said they still seek changes in US law that would give them federal funds to work with the human cells and find ways to use them in treating diseases such as cancer and genetic conditions, and studying others.

One team at Massachusetts-based Advanced Cell Technology used an established fertility technique called preimplantation genetic diagnosis to take a single cell from a mouse embryo and use it to grow a batch, or line, of embryonic stem cells.

A second team at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology managed to genetically damage cells and then use cloning technology to make a crippled mouse embryo that could never develop in the womb. They then developed embryonic stem cells from the embryo.

Both methods had been discussed as ways to bypass objections that some people including US President George W. Bush have to embryonic stem cell research. The studies, published in the journal Nature, show they are technically feasible.

"They demonstrate that you can isolate the equivalent embryonic stem cells by alternative methods that may not raise the ethical questions. I would say they also raise more questions than answers," Dr. George Daley of Children's Hospital Boston and Harvard Medical School, who was not involved in the research, told reporters in a telephone briefing.

Stem cells, the body's master cells, are used as a source of new cells and tissues. There are several kinds, but the controversial ones are those taken from very early human embryos.

Taken a few days after fertilization, these cells have the power to produce any type of cell in the body and are considered enormously powerful if scientists can learn how to direct their development.

Opponents say any destruction or even manipulation of a human embryo is immoral. Currently, federal funds for experiments using human embryonic stem cells are restricted, and rival bills in Congress would lift these restrictions or tighten them further. *Reuters*

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Pinoy Big Brother	Bora			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		ESPN or WNCCA Finals				Sentro	Night Prevails	Get My Son Dead Or Alive				Big News	The Apprentice		ALI	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Sassy Girl	Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Real Gilligan's Island		The Cut 1		Paradise Hotel		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Japan Video Topics		ME TV		Nuts	Outrageous	King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Buhay Pinoy	
Studio 23								Get Backers	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	The Rebel Billionaire	Angel		Smallville		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	MTV Screen	Spring Break	Diyos		Punk'D	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				MTV Hits	Get Spotted	TRL		Advance Warning	Pimp My Ride	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN		In The Driver's Seat	Mlb Championship Series						Asian X Games '05 Presented by Kia	English Premier League Highlights		Sportscenter Asia	Pool/Snooker World Pool Master '05		Mlb Championship Series				
Solar Sports													Sports Desk					Sports Desk	NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus				NFL 2005						Monster Jam		World's Greatest Auto Shows		UAW-GM Quality 500 Highlights		Celebrity Poker Tournament			
Cinemax			Dead Easy			The Professionals (5:15 PM)				Necessary Roughness (7:15 PM)				Wild Things 2: The Glades			Hercules And The Amazon Women		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Wire In The Blood		HCA, The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Wire In The Blood		Earthsea			Agency II (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Phil Of The Future	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		The Pacific War		Horror In The East		Wild Science		Risk Takers		Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		Extreme Survival		Mostly True Stories	
National Geographic		Interpol Investigates		Air Crash Investigation		Is It Real?		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Catastrophe Humans Floyd National Geographic Special: DNA Mystery Search For Adam		Interpol Investigates/ 7/7: Attack On London		Air Crash Investigation	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New, Scooby Doo?	Johnny Bravo	Codename Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		Courage The Cowardly Dog	What's New, Scooby Doo?	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Codename Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Romeo	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	Second Look		Look For Less	Life & Style		Who's Wedding Is It Anyway?		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World	Becker	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Ed		Desperate Housewives		Tru Calling		Friends	Ed
AXN		Lost		Lost		Sports Disasters IV		Alias (Season III)		Pensacola (Season III)		The Amazing Race Family Edition		The Mentalist		House		Las Vegas	
JackTV	Family Guy	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Beat The Geeks	WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		X-Play	Banzai	Mad TV		Trigger Happy TV	Primetime Glick	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Ren & Stimpy Adult Party Cartoon	Family Guy	Wwe Heat	
ETC		Good Morning Miami	Knock First -	1 Hr. Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	JKX	Simple Life	One Tree Hill		For Love Or Money		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			Deep Shock (3:45 PM)			The Buried Secret Of M. Night Shyamalan (5:15 PM)				Tango & Cash (7:15 PM)				Deadwood 09: No Other Sons Or Daughters		Deadwood 10: Mister Wu		Chasing Liberty (10:55PM)	
Star Movies					Target Of Opportunity			Prozac Nation			Home Alone 4			A Different Loyalty			Sneakers (10:45PM)		
Cinema One		Sampung Libulyo				Ang Bukas Ay Akin				Batangan Ako't Dudurugin Kita				Hindi Pa Tapos Ang Labada Darling				Sokdulan	
EWTN	Anagels Of God	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Saints For The Third Millenium: St. Therese Of Lisieux	Faith Factory B	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Pope Pius XII	The Journey Home		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Swear To God	The Sacraments Through The Ages	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Web Of Faith	

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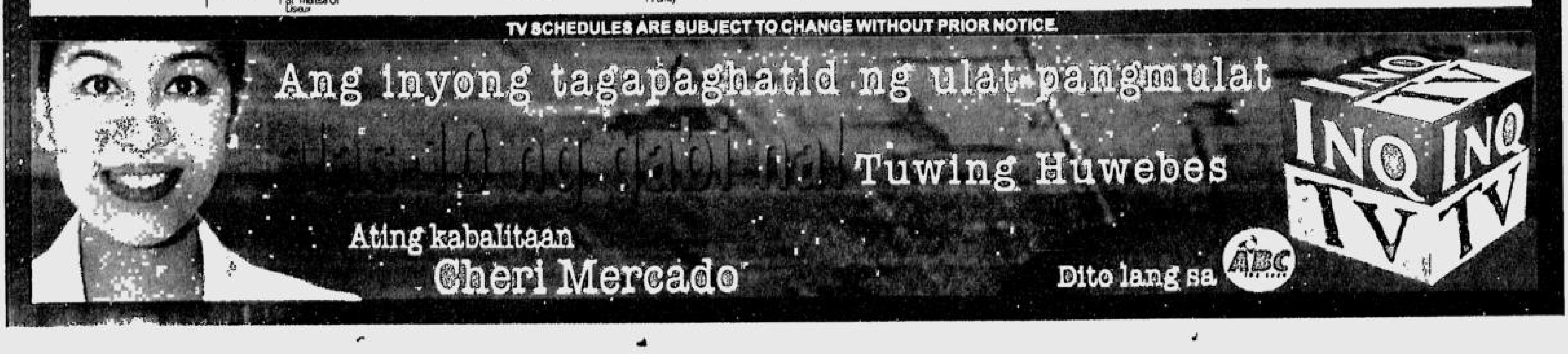

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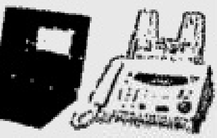

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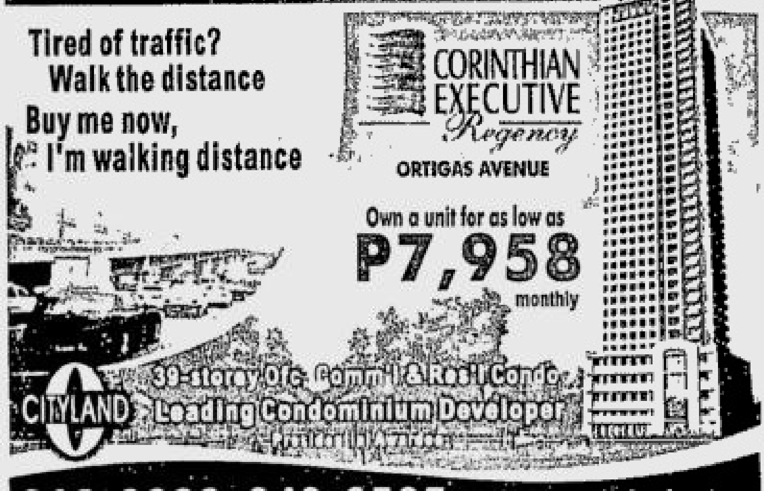

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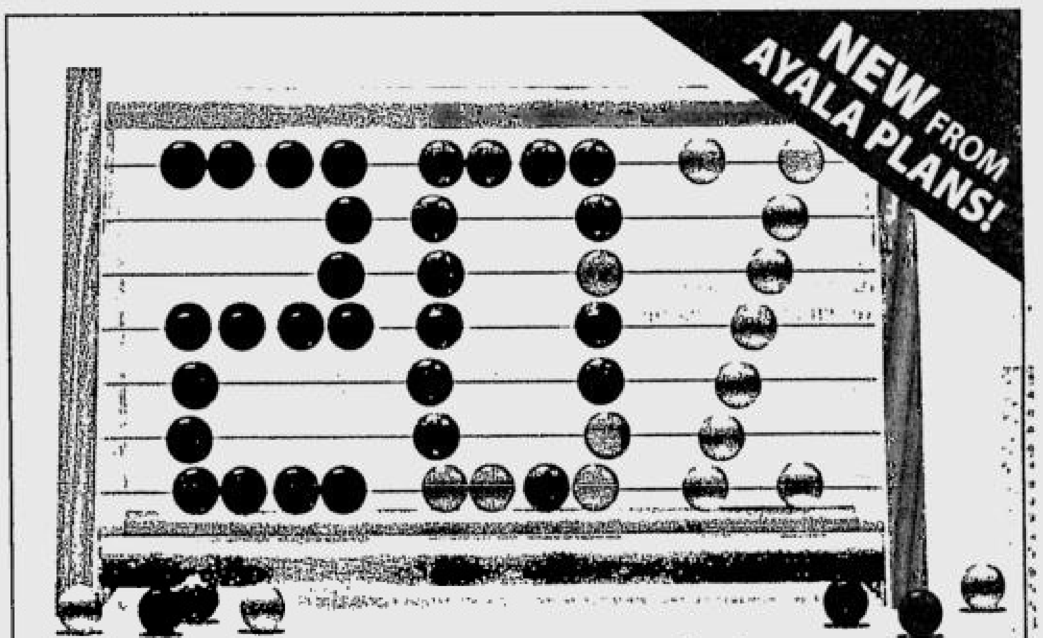
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Koizumi visits war shrine; China, S. Korea protest

TOKYO—JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER Junichiro Koizumi paid homage on Monday at a Tokyo shrine for war dead that is viewed by critics as a symbol of Japan's militaristic past, drawing swift and angry protests from China and South Korea.

Japan's relations with its neighbors have already chilled because of Koizumi's annual visits to Yasukuni Shrine, where war criminals are honored along with 2.5 million war dead.

Koizumi—clad in a dark suit rather than the traditional Japanese garb he has worn on some past visits—bowed, put his hands together in prayer and stood silently in front of an outer shrine for a moment before striding back to his car in front of a crowd that had gathered in a drizzling rain.

Escorted by a score of security police, he used the public entrance and did not enter an inner shrine as in the past.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda told a news conference that Koizumi later told his coalition partner that he had made the visit to pray for peace as an individual citizen.

Japanese media said the low key atmosphere appeared to be an attempt to mute the expected backlash.

Chinese Ambassador to Japan Wang Yi, however, called the visit a "grave provocation to the Chinese people."

"The Chinese government is resolutely opposed to visits to the Yasukuni Shrine by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at any time, in any form," Xinhua news agency quoted Wang as saying.

Japan's embassy in Beijing advised Japanese nationals to stay away from areas where there was potential for anti-Japan demonstrations, such as those that swept China earlier this year.

South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon summoned Japanese Ambassador Shotaro Oshima to complain, and a presidential aide said President Roh Moo-hyun was unlikely to meet Koizumi for their semi-annual summit meeting this year.

"We strongly protest the visit to Yasukuni Shrine despite our request and strongly urge that it is not repeated," Ban said.

Koizumi's visit is also likely to complicate efforts to arrange a summit between Japanese and Chinese leaders this year.

A meeting tentatively planned for later this week in Beijing between Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura and Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing to discuss relations will not now take place, Kyodo news agency reported.

About 15 protesters gathered near Japan's embassy in Seoul and one man tried to shred the Japanese flag with his teeth.

Japanese companies worry the diplomatic strains will hurt burgeoning economic relations especially between China and Japan, which have annual trade worth about $212 billion.

Japan's exports to China account for some 13 percent of its global exports, second only to 22 percent to the United States.

Tokyo stock market investors, recalling a slide in share prices after anti-Japanese protests in China in April, were wary of the possible fallout from Koizumi's visit to the shrine.

"If there are more protests in China, the market will fall, without a doubt," said Ken Masuda, a dealer at Shinko Securities.

Koizumi has repeatedly said he visits the Shinto shrine to pray for peace and honor the dead, not to glorify militarism.

He has also avoided going to the shrine on Aug. 15, the anniversary of Japan's 1945 surrender that ended World War II and an emotive date in the region.

But his visits on other occasions have nonetheless infuriated China and other countries.

"It's fine for the prime minister to stick to his beliefs, but given his status as the Japanese leader he should think about relations between countries and the people's feelings," said Choi Young-soo, 44, a South Korean on a sightseeing trip to the shrine. "He should not stir up ill feelings." *Reuters*

KOIZUMI paying homage at Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo Oct. 17. The shrine for Japan's war dead is seen by critics as a symbol of Japan's past militarism. REUTERS

China astronauts return to Earth; new mission seen

BEIJING—CHINA'S SECOND MANNED SPACE flight ended successfully Monday as the Shenzhou VI craft returned to Earth, leading to patriotic celebrations and plans for an ambitious new mission in 2007.

The capsule carrying astronauts Fei Junlong and Nie Haisheng parachuted softly onto a field in the northern Chinese region of Inner Mongolia to bring their five-day mission to a close, Xinhua news agency said.

"Our journey in space was very smooth. The living and working conditions inside the cabin were very good. Our health is okay, thanks," Fei said on state television, with a radiant smile.

Emerging from the module, the two took a few seconds to adjust to the Earth's gravity, before being presented with bouquets of flowers and waving to assembled recovery teams and ground control staff.

The successful mission, followed for the past 115 hours by millions of people across the country, boosted the nation's prestige and marked another step in China's progress toward becoming a space power.

Soon after the astronauts touched down, Tang Xianming, director of the China Manned Space Engineering Office, announced that the next manned mission would take place in 2007 and would include a spacewalk.

"Now I can tell you all that around 2007, astronauts would walk out of the cabin and walk in space," he told a press conference.

Two spacecraft would dock in orbit some time in the period between 2009 and 2012 in preparation for establishing a permanent space station, he said.

China's top legislator Wu Bangguo, who watched the return of Shenzhou VI from the Beijing Aerospace Command and Control Center, hailed the mission as a milestone.

"It is of great significance in elevating China's prestige in the world and promoting China's economic, scientific and national defense capabilities, and its national cohesiveness," he was quoted saying by the People's Daily website.

Xinhua reported that the capsule landed upright after touching down at 4:33 a.m., just one km from the intended landing site.

Shenzhou VI orbited around the earth at a speed of 7.9 km per second and traveled 3.25 million km during the five-day journey, it said.

"It was, as far as we know, what I'm sure they'd like to refer to as a picture-perfect mission," said Joan Johnson-Freese, an expert on China's space program at the US Naval War College.

Fei and Nie were taken by special plane to a military airport on the outskirts of Beijing, saluting briskly and shaking hands with Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan.

"I can feel that lots of people are thinking about us. We're very grateful for all the love and concern from our motherland and its people," Nie said.

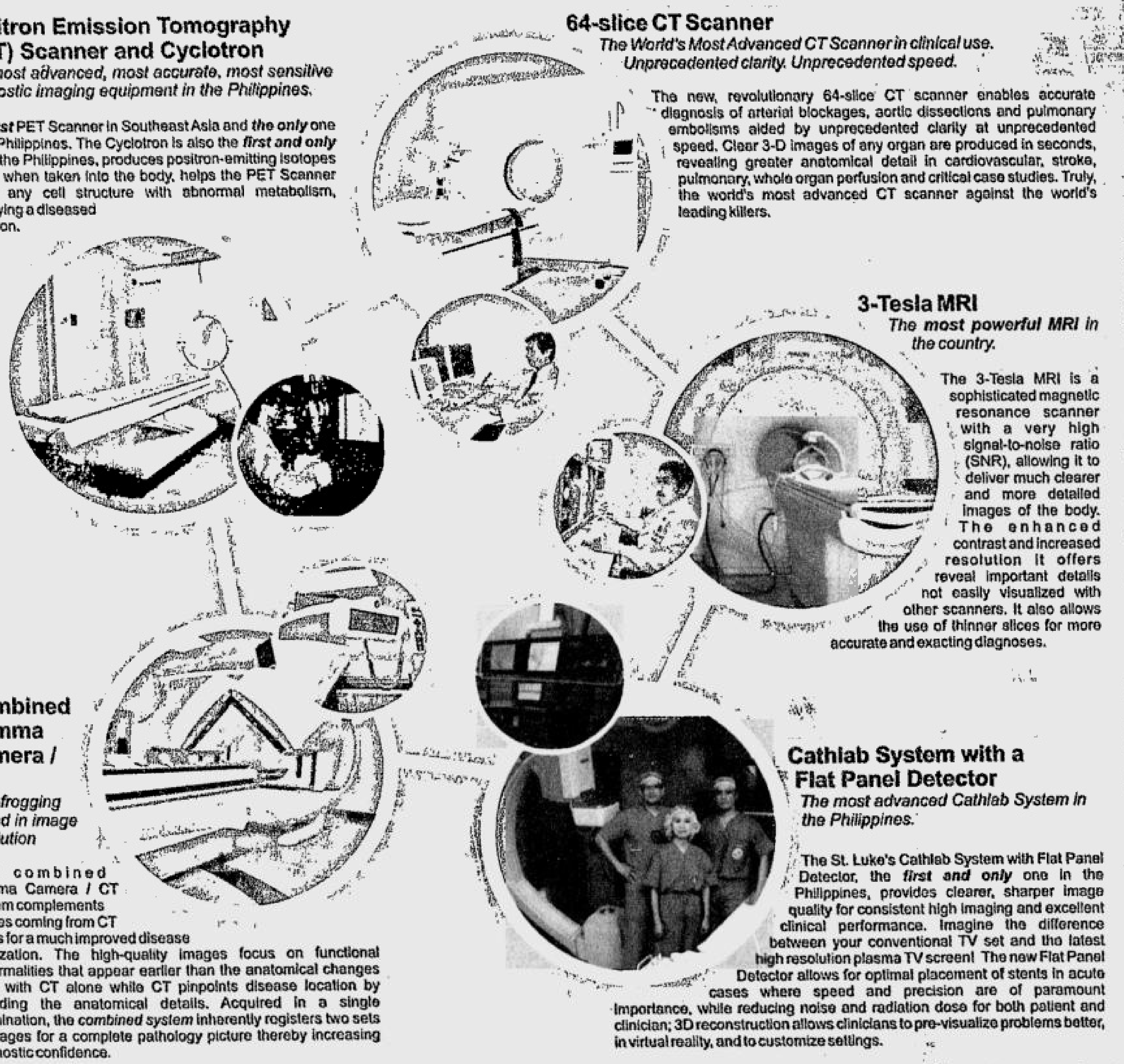
In his hometown in Zaoyang county of northern Hebei province, hundreds of proud residents hit the streets from before sunrise to mark the spacecraft's safe return.

State television showed footage of the town celebrating its most famous son with firecrackers and dragon dances.

The flight was China's second manned space mission after Shenzhou V in October 2003, which made China the third nation after the former Soviet Union and the United States to put a man into space.

The spacecraft blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on Inner Mongolia's border with Gansu province on Wednesday.

The flight was in many ways a leap forward compared with China's maiden space voyage, when lone astronaut Yang Liwei spent 21 hours orbiting the Earth without leaving his seat or taking off his space suit. *AFP*



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Iraqis seen approving charter

BAGHDAD—IRAQI VOTERS HAVE PROBABLY approved a new US-backed constitution, overcoming fierce Sunni Arab opposition in a vote Washington hopes will boost its beleaguered strategy in Iraq, results showed on Sunday.

Early counts from Saturday's referendum indicated the vote split as expected along largely communal lines, reflecting the bitter ethnic and religious tensions that have cost thousands of Iraqi lives since the US-led invasion in 2003.

"This is a very positive day for the Iraqi people and as well for world peace," US President George W. Bush told reporters in Washington. "Democracies are peaceful countries."

Tight security kept the polls mostly trouble-free although five US soldiers and a Marine were killed in the Sunni west, the military said, raising the US death toll in Iraq to 1,971.

Also, residents said heavy fighting broke out in Ramadi, a rebellious Sunni Arab city west of Baghdad that strongly opposed the constitution. They said US aircraft bombed some areas and a doctor said 25 people had been killed. The US military had no immediate information on operations in the area.

Despite high turnout in some Sunni Arab areas, partial counts suggested the charter's opponents did not muster enough "No" votes to veto it. According to the referendum rules, a two-thirds "No" vote in three of Iraq's 18 provinces would block the constitution even if most Iraqis backed it.

"All indications we are getting ... are encouraging and positive for a 'Yes' vote for this constitution," Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari told CNN. "So my guess is, yes, it will be passed."

That confidence grew as more unofficial results trickled in, and by the end of the day Iraqi officials were saying privately the constitution was certain to have been approved.

Speaking in London as votes were still being counted in Iraq, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the charter had probably passed—angering some Sunni leaders who accused her of pressuring Iraqi officials to fix the result.

Rice later said the final tally was still not known, but that a "Yes" vote would help turn the tide against a Sunni Arab insurgency which has pushed Iraq close to civil war.

Bush praised the large turnout and the calm compared to elections of the interim government in January when more than 40 people were killed in a series of insurgent attacks.

"By all indications the turnout was greater than the turnout from the last January election, which is good news," he said.

"And by all indications, the Sunnis participated in greater numbers in this election than the last time," Bush said.

"I am also pleased from the initial indications that the level of violence was considerably less than the last election. *Reuters*

UAE has lowest tariff, says IMF

THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES HAS ONE OF the lowest tariff and nontariff barriers among the members of the International Monetary Fund, according to the IMF UAE Country report. Compared to an average tariff of 19 per cent for the Middle East region in 1997, the UAE had an average tariff of eight per cent.

In 2004, it had an average tariff of five per cent compared to the regional average of 12 per cent. The share of non-oil exports (including reexports) to GDP (Gross Domestic Product) has grown from less than 10 per cent in the early 1980s to more than 35 per cent at the present, the report said.

Openness to trade, trade facilitation and the favorable business environment have enhanced non-oil diversification by stimulating trade and trade related services. Structural reforms in the recent past together with market-oriented policies have fostered the rapid expansion of the non-oil economy with a well integrated trading system, the report added.

The export structure of the UAE has evolved from a dependence on domestic industry based products such as petrochemicals, fertilizers, cement, and aluminum to more diversified products such as electronics, light machinery and transport equipments mainly from the free zone exports.

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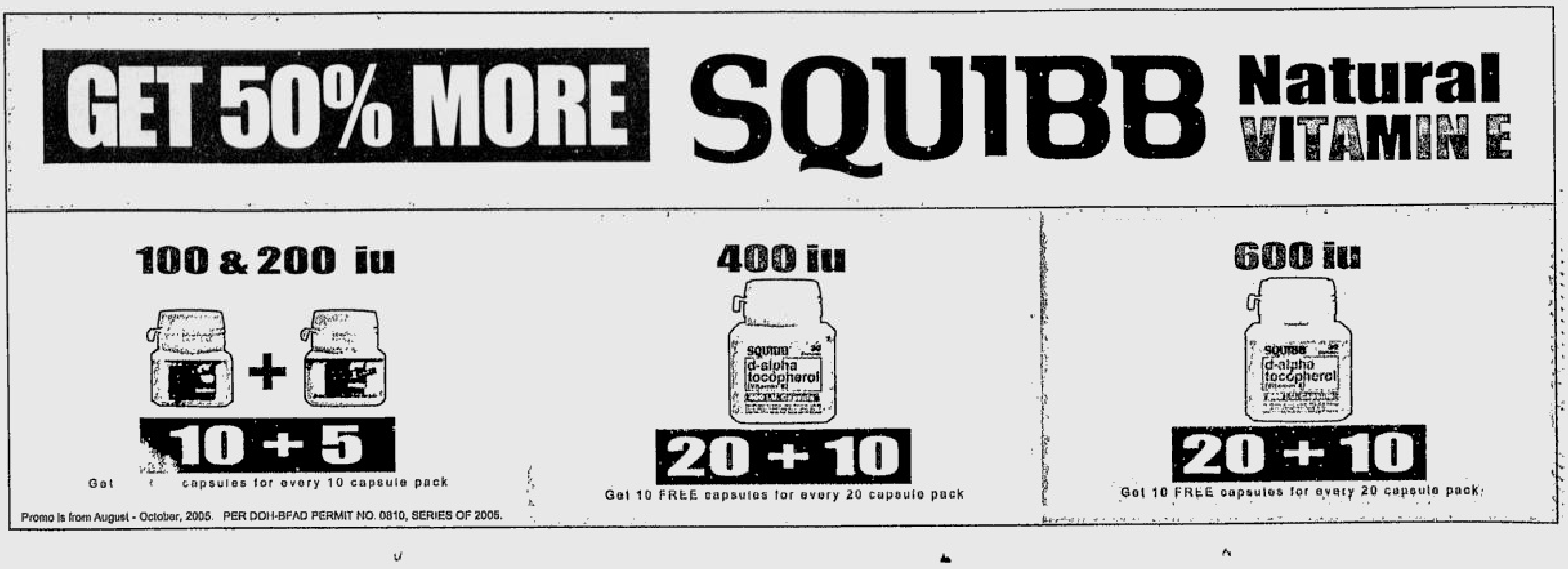
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OPINION

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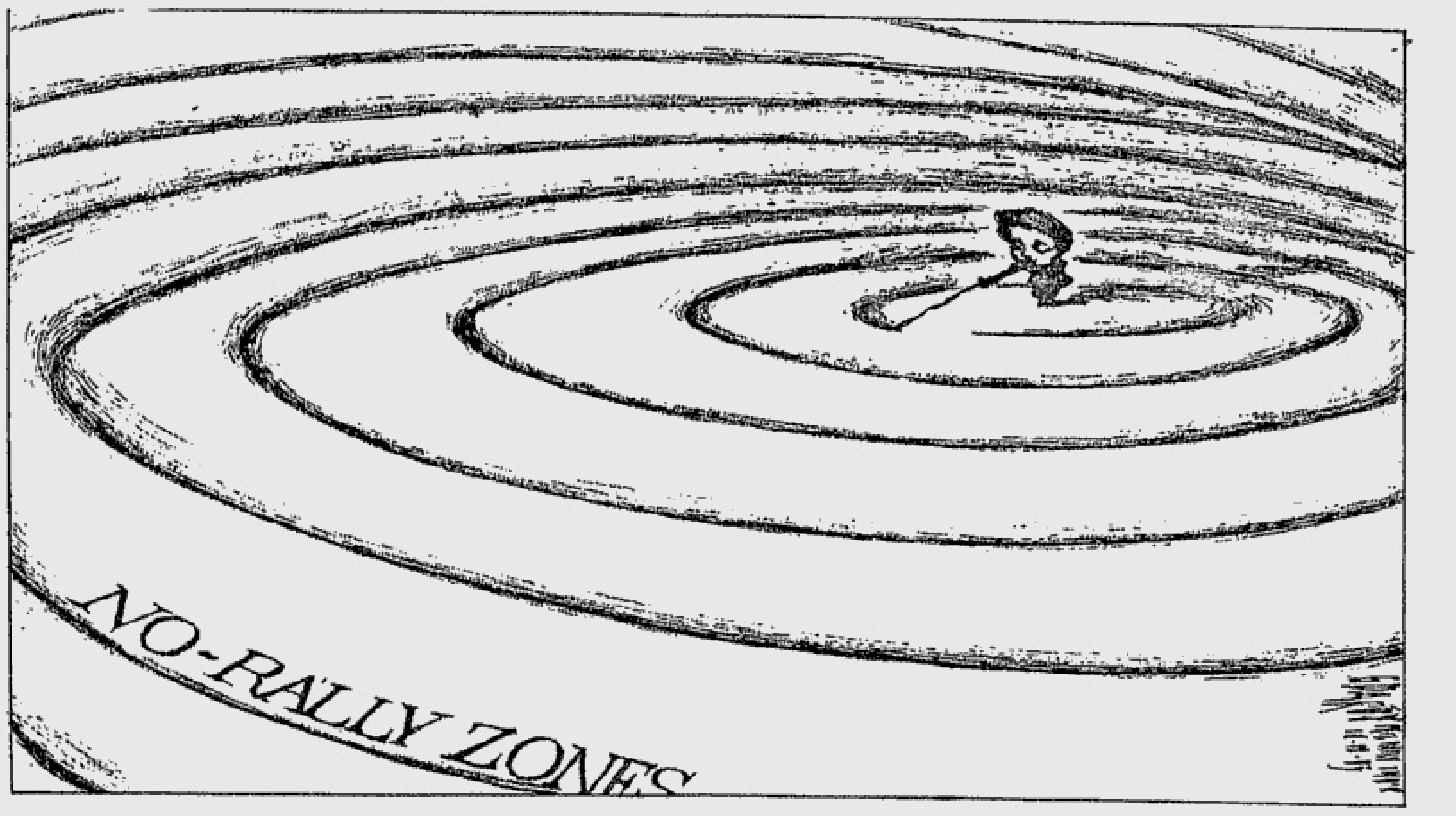

Manners

EDITORIAL

THE OTHER DAY, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTED that bad manners were becoming a hallmark of American society. It said that stress from a fast-paced, high-tech existence was taking their toll on civility and politeness.

The same thing is happening in Philippine society, especially in urban areas. Filipinos, who used to be known for their gentility, politeness and courtesy, are turning into an uncivil, impolite, boorish people. And it is not just an increasingly high-tech existence, particularly in urban life, that is making it so, it is also the constant pressure of poverty, the push to be aggressive and competitive to be able to get ahead in the daily rat race. It is also caused by self-centeredness, a growing lack of regard for others.

Men no longer stand when ladies join them at the table for conversation. They no longer open doors for women. They no longer give up their seats on buses and the LRT for women and the elderly.

Very few young people still make "*mano po,*" the traditional gesture of kissing the hands of their elders, for which they get a blessing in return. Like the men, they often do not give up their seats on public transport to the women and old people.

The words "please," "excuse me" and "thank you" and their Filipino equivalents are falling into disuse in daily conversation. The practice of using "*po*" or "*ho*" in talking in Filipino to elders is dying out.

Many people do not practice cell phone ethics. They speak loudly while talking on their cell phones in restaurants, conference halls and other public places. They do not turn off their phones at concerts and plays. Sometimes, in the middle of the andante movement of a piano concerto, a phone rings and its jangling tone distracts the audience and ruins the entire evening for the performer.

At one performance of "Hamlet" several years ago, scores of students in the audience kept up a continuous chatter while the actors were reciting the immortal words of the Bard. This so infuriated the director that he called a halt to the play and lectured the students on the need to observe theater etiquette. Don't parents and teachers teach the young good manners and right conduct anymore?

The worst manifestation of the breakdown of courtesy is road rage and squabbles over right of way. In the case of bus drivers, the cause is economic: they want to get ahead of the others so that they can get more passengers and earn more from fares on a given trip. In the case of private car owners, it is a desire to be always ahead of the pack. Some may call it machismo, the desire to be the cock of the walk. The one who is left behind loses face. In some cases, it is plain rudeness and lack of respect for traffic rules. Many squabbles caused by drivers cutting across the path of other drivers often end in violent, and sometimes, fatal exchanges.

Jeepney drivers do not have any consideration for other drivers. They stop near the middle of intersections to pick up passengers, tying up traffic and making the blood of the other drivers behind them boil.

Before Chairman Bayani Fernando of the Metro Manila Development Authority set up his curiously painted pink urinals (what a color!) men used to urinate anywhere—under a tree, against a wall, in a dark corner of an alley. Urinating in public is still very much a fact of urban life. You see drivers opening the doors of their cars and relieving themselves behind them.

The breakdown of manners, the loss of civility and common courtesy is making life even more stressful and less civilized in our country, especially in Metro Manila and other urban areas. It's a jungle out there and people are turning into beasts that no longer have any regard, not to mention respect, for their fellow human beings.

Emerson said, "Life is not so short but that there is always time enough for courtesy." Manners, courtesy, civility—call it what you will—it is one thing that distinguishes human beings from most animals. But in some cases, animals may exhibit more courtesy than people.

Oh, that our society could return to those idyllic times before World War II when people were courteous and polite and civil. Yes, the times now are more stressful. Yes, the pressure on people to get ahead in the daily rat race is rising. Yes, poverty and the political and economic uncertainty are making people more aggressive and combative. But these things do not have to turn us into beasts and barbarians. Common courtesy and civility can make life more bearable in these trying times.

Final nails of lunacy

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"FINAL NAILS" IN THE WOOD INDUSTRY'S coffin, "Pinoy Hell" and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada's plunder raps are issues readers e-mailed us over the past two weeks.

Your column "Past tense, present tense" spotlights spillover from government's simplistic total log ban, writes forestry specialist Oscar Gendrano.

This curb blanketed even private tree plantations. Yet, a decade ago, government spurred private entrepreneurs to develop tree plantations. These were to re-green lands degraded by slash-and-burn farmers.

Gendrano cites how, in response, an investor in the Visayas borrowed P20 million from a multinational funding institution. With a 25-year lease, he reforested almost a thousand hectares. Nine years later, his trees are ready for harvest. He owes the bank P50 million, due to compounding interests. No sweat. He'll earn P300 million if he can process and sell his mature timber. There's more than enough to repay the loan, cover taxes, provide livelihoods for scores of otherwise jobless people, rehabilitate barren land—and make an honest profit.

Then comes this knee-jerk policy of a total log ban. Why? Because politicians try to fend off public fury over their savage exploiting of forests.

This public posturing results in haphazard decisions, including arbitrary reversal of previous policies. It is not thought-out policy, so basic to stave off collapse of a stressed wood industry.

This entrepreneur hocked his property for the loan. Shouldn't he, at least, be compensated for his nine-year efforts to back a vital government program? Now, he's readying a damage suit.

Dozens of similar ventures are adversely affected by this senseless banning of tree harvests, even in legitimate plantations. "What would you say on this case?" Gendrano asks.

"It is irresponsible at best, and lunacy or criminal at worst, for controls to be put on free harvest and transport of trees planted and grown by farmers and other investors," is the candid reply from United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization regional forester Patrick Durst in Bangkok.

Durst co-authored "In Search of Excellence," a major FAO study of 28 outstanding forest management practices, culled from 170 case studies in 21 Asian countries. Four are from the Philippines.

"There's no sound environmental reason to restrict the free harvest and transport of plantation-grown wood. The only reasons stem from unjust motivation to extract illegal payments from farmers and haulers."

Politicians can jerk around 180 degrees. "But they must compensate the farmers and investors for their sweat and invested capital, if they insist that plantations grown for producing commercial wood (with government backing) now be left unharvested for ecological reasons.

"This story unfortunately is repeated throughout the country. These policies drive final nails in the coffin of the wood industry. They also destroy any motivation for farmers to plant trees in future."

Policy lunacy is reflected in "Pinoy Hell," a barbed joke e-mailed from Australia by author and former Manila Times columnist Alfredo Roces. It goes this way:

A Pinoy dies and goes to hell. He discovers different infernos for each country. "What do you do here?" he asks at the German hell. "First, they strap you in an electric chair for an hour," he was told. "Then, you're tossed on a bed of nails for another hour. After that, a devil whips you for the rest of the day."

"That's not for me," the Pinoy mutters. So, he checks out hell for Americans, Russians and 180-plus United Nation members. They're identical to the German hell, he finds.

But at the Filipino hell, there's a kilometer-long queue itching to get in. Amazed, he asks: "Why, what do they do here?"

"First they put you in an electric chair for an hour," is the reply. "Then they lay you on a bed of nails for another hour. Then, the devil comes in and whips you for the rest of the day."

"But that's what all the other hells do," he protested. "So, why are these people scrambling to get in?"

"Because there's always a brownout, so the electric chair does not work," is the explanation. "Somebody stole the nails from the bed to sell it *por kilo*. And the devil used to be a politician, so he punches his time card, shakes hands with all the people waiting and then scoots home."

And from South San Francisco in California, Pepeton J'Anton asks: Is it not hell if a plunder case, like that lodged against Sen. Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada, vanishes from view?

Plunder is a major crime, he notes. And the case was headline stuff. "Jingle Bells," they wrote. Now, there's silence. "Isn't that par for the (news reporting and journalism) course in the Philippines? Scandals, shams, scams...and all kinds of shenanigans beleaguer the nation...non-stop! Some judges, it seems, march to [the] drumbeat of media. The press exposes, sensationalizes, dramatizes insatiably—and then forgets it."

This is a recipe for non-accountability and more thievery, he says.

This flaw could be lethal, specially since there's talk about rewriting the Constitution. The Charter will be revised in the midst of feigned love of country. The operative rule here was articulated in the infamous but ironically, honest rhetorical question of Sen. Jose Avelino : "*Para que estamos en poder?*" (What are we in power for?)

Get those heads out of that box, J'Anton urges. "This nation cannot be great again. It hasn't been that yet." But it needs a good press more than ever.

* * *

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.com)

Nausea

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I READ THE COMMENTS ABOUT ME LAST Wednesday in the Letters to the Editor, one full of praise and the other full of disappointment. Marlon Alcantara's letter is the one full of disappointment. It goes: "I used to read with great interest the columns of Conrado de Quiros. But they have become nauseating; all they contain are views against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. I am not pro-Gloria, but I hope De Quiros will once again appreciate variety, not just limit his columns to GMA stories."

This isn't the first time I've gotten this reaction. I've heard it and read about it several times from people who profess to have been reading me before but are now no longer doing so, or propose not to do so anymore. The more common reaction is the other letter, the one written by May Caro, which says I give readers the voice to express the outrage that is choking them. I can always say, "Win some, lose some," but I figure I owe Alcantara and company a word of explanation.

Ages ago, during the launching of my first book, I said that at the deepest level of things, you do not really choose your topics, they choose you. You write about them because you are compelled to, because they are there, in the sense that Edmund Hilary used the phrase. When asked why he climbed Mt. Everest, he answered, "Because it is there." He did not mean that as a choice, he meant it as a necessity.

I write nearly exclusively about GMA today because she is there. In this case, that isn't just metaphorical, that is literal. I am exceptionally compelled to do so because GMA is there when she should not be there.

Who doesn't want variety? Over the past months, I have been tempted to write variously about the fact that jazz is advancing in quality if not in quantity in this country, that digital may yet save the local movie industry, that Katrina and Rita are God's way of saying He does not talk to George W. Bush as the latter claims (Bush has refused to sign the Kyoto Protocol), that ironically it's Ron Howard rather than any local director who made a movie about a man who rescues his family from starvation through boxing, that John Le Carre's novel, "The Constant Gardener," is even better than the movie.

But always I go back to GMA: Because she is there. Because she should not be there.

Alcantara says all he reads from me these days are "views against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo." Or as another letter-writer, Lelis Arambulo, put it the other week, all she reads from the Philippine press today is nothing good about President GMA. But that is the point. The problem is not whether GMA has done good or bad as President, it is whether she has a right to do good or bad as President. She is not the President. The problem is not the conduct of her rule, it is the legitimacy of her rule. The problem is not the quality of her rule, it is the fact that she is ruling. She has no right to. You cheat in an exam, you are expelled from school. You cheat in elections, you are jailed for life.

What I write are not "views against President GMA," what I write are views about why we have to express views about a non-president. What I dwell on is not the "bad side of President GMA," what I dwell on is why we have to look at the good and bad of the rule of a usurper. What I write about is the folly of a people that have learned to accept the unacceptable and agreed to discuss only how best to live with it.

Of late, I have written even more "relentlessly," a word others use to describe it, about "GMA" because of two humongous threats to this country, which are the far more perilous for not being seen. The first is the lulling of this country into a sense of normality with such phrases as "let's put this thing behind us," "let's focus on more important things," and "let's move on." As another letter-writer wrote the other week, GMA cheated in the elections, so what?

I am sorry, but I do not find the theft of the vote of the same order as the theft of a lipstick in a department store. I am sorry, but like the father of a murdered child, I cannot put his murder behind me, focus on more important things, and move on. There is nothing more important than justice. Life does not move on with iniquity flailing it on, it stands still, transfixed to the ground.

The second is the conscription of the country into silence. That is what the killing of the impeachment complaint, the ban on rallies (against GMA, there is no such ban on the pro-GMA), and the ban on public officials appearing before the Senate signify. Collectively, they say that we may no longer talk about the fact that GMA stole the vote. That subject, more than being passé, is taboo. Violating the rule of silence, as in a convent or monastery, carries with it penalties and sanctions.

I refuse to be lulled into normality, I refuse to be conscripted into silence. It is one thing to be cowed into silence with a gun aimed at your head, it is another to be lured into it under the illusion of pleasing an audience. It is one thing to be forced to accede to tyranny through a bayonet aimed at your heart, it is another to find it the most natural thing in the world and go back to talking about tennis. I am sorry, but I cannot appreciate variety while a usurper unwaveringly, relentlessly and single-mindedly, throws us over the edge of the cliff. I can only continue to shout my head off in warning and cry, "Stop!"

To those who, like May Caro, say, "He is exactly my voice and the voice of other people who do not have the means to shout out our disappointments," I can only express my thanks. To those who, like Alcantara, find my "views against GMA" nauseating, I can only say that, well, radiation therapy is nauseating, too. But it has been known to cure cancer.

Different agenda

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FROM WHAT I COULD PIECE TOGETHER FROM reports of Manila city and police officials and video footage, it appears that last Friday, the rally group, which included three bishops, had a permit for a "prayer rally" at Plaza Miranda. It was far from a prayer rally, though, as it hit President Macapagal-Arroyo left and right, but just the same, when the ralliers negotiated with the police to be allowed to continue their "procession" to nearby San Sebastian Church, the police agreed. The procession, which featured a litany of GMA's "sins," went unimpeded. Soon after reaching San Sebastian, an announcement was made that the group was to disband and the majority of the participants, including the bishops, peacefully left the place.

But a "breakaway group," composed of aging and youthful politicos, one or two religious people, and dozens of able-bodied men went through a small street called San Sebastian and moved toward Mendiola, where they were stopped by a phalanx of shield-wielding police. They wanted to go through the Chino Roces Bridge, but were told it was part of the no-rally zone. Negotiations were carried out, but soon tension overcame them as the ralliers began jostling with the police who were under pressure to wrap things up as night was fast falling. Finally, the decision was made to bring in the water cannons to disperse the rally.

* * *

A bishop was quoted as saying that the dispersal would polarize the bishops against GMA. The dispersal as well as government's "no-permit, no-rally" stance and its "calibrated preemptive response" will reportedly be reviewed by the bishops. Already several other bishops were reported to be sympathetic with their militant colleagues. But before the bishops are lured into a uniform condemnation, they should seek answers to several questions. There is no room for naiveté here, as they could be playing into the hands of provocateurs.

* * *

Why did the ralliers, who were supposed to have disbanded after San Sebastian, proceed to Mendiola Bridge and begin agitating to cross over to San Beda College, which is off-limits to rallies? If they really wanted to pray, why not at Quiapo or San Sebastian Church? By seeking to cross over to San Beda, they were practically forcing the police to use water cannons. What was their agenda?

It does look like the Friday "break-away" group was raring for a fight, and perhaps some personalities were used, wittingly or unwittingly. TV host Oscar Orbos, President Cory's *manok* for president many moons ago, was quoted as saying, "Imagine, can we attack Malacañang? Bishop Labayen is 82 years old." But there is no TV footage showing Labayen at Mendiola. And even assuming that he was and indeed, he may be too old to attack Malacañang physically, other people in that group very well could. This has always been the problem in mass actions: how to police the ranks to ensure there are no infiltrators, saboteurs or terrorists.

* * *

But even assuming that the Friday group was "harmless," was it right to ask the police to screen which ralliers to allow through and which not to? That's a very unhealthy set-up. If the PNP were to allow bishops and religious, aging and youthful politicos into Mendiola, how can they turn away the next rally of militants?

The senators have joined the fray and most of them lambasted the dispersal and the "martial law aspects" of the "calibrated preemptive response." But I think there should also be a similar emphasis on the "calibrated preemptive responsibility" of men of God and politicians to uphold the law and rules imposed to safeguard the public weal.

* * *

I recall the Jan. 22, 1987 Mendiola Massacre early in the Cory era, when 17 farmers were killed by police fire during a rally. The story was that there were intelligence reports that the Left would provoke a shooting, but the police ignored the reports. *Nagka-barilan nga.*

The Hacienda Luisita episode in Tarlac last year is too recent to forget. What started out as a peaceful strike by disgruntled employees turned into a bloody massacre, after the Left reportedly dispatched militant forces from as far as Negros to reinforce and manipulate the strike. Recently the Court of Appeals upheld the courageous decision of Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas to call in military elements at Camp Aquino to reinforce the PNP, in order to prevent the further deterioration of the Luisita situation. She was roundly criticized for it, but the CA verdict vindicates her.

* * *

The bishops must realize that in any mass action, various groups have different agenda. Some may be truly sincere in merely wanting to protest government's excesses, but there are groups whose sole aim is to sow chaos and anarchy, and perhaps trigger a civil war. Moreover, in the heat of confrontations, it's so easy for either side to lose control of the situation. This doubtless is the reason the administration and the city government have made Mendiola a no-rally zone. It is the site of five major schools and Malacañang. Even Washington, D.C. has a protective ring around the White House after 9/11. Recall that not too long ago a small private plane strayed into White House airspace and would have been shot down had the pilot not veered away quickly.

Manila has set aside four "freedom parks"—Plaza Miranda, Liwasang Bonifacio, Bonifacio Shrine and the huge Luneta Park—where, with prior permit, dissenters can gather and express their protests to their hearts' content. This concept is sound and other cities should follow the example. Someone suggested that Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando designate the entire Riverbanks area as a "freedom park," but then no politico would go there since there's no media there, only statues of carabaos.

Seeing injustice

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHAT IF INSTEAD OF BOMBARDING THE BISHOPS and priests and "senior citizens" (I don't know if Sen. Jamby Madrigal would relish being lumped together with the septuagenarian former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, though) with water cannons as they made their way to San Beda, the police escorted them to the college just to ensure they were able to hold their prayer rally?

Sure, the protesters may have received a rally permit restricting them to Plaza Miranda and thence to San Sebastian Church, but would the earth have cracked open if a portion of their group managed to finally step on the sacred ground of Mendiola? If, say, motorcycle-riding escorts herded the recalcitrant marchers all the way to San Beda, my guess is that after a few minutes of prayer, the "prayer ralliers" would have broken up their ranks and peacefully gone home. My educated guess is that a peaceful prayer rally, even one that ends up in Mendiola, would not have made it to a front-page banner story. But a watery dispersal of a former vice president, a senator and Catholic bishops is almost guaranteed as the story of the day. Not to mention that it also made for compelling photos and video ops.

The use of water cannons is but the latest escalation into what seems to be a campaign of provocation by the Arroyo administration. The "calibrated preemptive response" policy is purportedly about putting an end to a season of protests by clamping down on them and ensuring they keep within legal bounds. But what the policy has instead accomplished is to ratchet up the scale and frequency of the protests. Initial public cynicism and indifference to the moves to oust the President are steadily being replaced with anger, alarm and a sense of solidarity with the protesters who have been beaten back, pummeled, arrested and now soaked. If Filipinos ever loved and had an instinctive sympathy for anyone, it is for the underdog, the hapless Everyman (Everyperson?) oppressed by the powerful and wealthy.

* * *

IF, BY its mailed-fist response the Arroyo administration hopes to intimidate the protesters and put an end to the rallies and marches, then GMA's advisers, and the President herself, have forgotten their history.

Since when have Filipino activists ever been cowed by water cannons, police truncheons, tear gas or even bullets? One memorable photo from martial-law years has the late former Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, then already in his 80s, raising an angry fist from inside a police vehicle, after he and other members of the opposition had been arrested after holding a rally. One of the most poignant images from the days of the "parliament of the streets" soon after the Aquino assassination was that of Chino Roces and other senior protesters standing firm against what must have been a painful jet of water wielded by a firefighter.

Most recently, I was shocked to see footage of Renato Constantino Jr., who I thought had retired from activism after he underwent a quadruple heart bypass, being shoved back by a phalanx of police while marching toward Mendiola. His son Red told me that he received concerned text messages from family friends telling him to advice his father against going to another rally, but all he could tell them was "when did my parents ever allow anything to stop them when they were angry enough to do something?"

* * *

FILIPINO activists are not martyrs, to be sure. I remember that when tear gas became a regular fixture in the "maximum tolerance" arsenal of the Marcosian police, those in the protest movement soon learned to come prepared for it. Along with placards and banners, they learned to bring bottles of water, small towels and face masks to minimize the sting and the pain. No one relished the effects of tear gas, but fear of its use was nothing compared to the people's determination to bring the dictatorship to an end.

If the President believes that force and intimidation will finally make the populace believe she has an undisputed right to remain in office, then here's a news flash for her: You're wrong. You're only hastening your departure from office.

Already, I am hearing from the most unlikely sources indignant questions on why such forceful measures are at all necessary, and what the government hopes to accomplish by their use. In his talk before the members of Abanse! Pinay last Friday, former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod reminded us that, as public opinion polls show, "Filipinos are able to bear even hunger; what angers them is injustice."

And there can be no more graphic representation of injustice than an old man who only wished to have his opinion known and to pray (as he said) soaked and hurting from a blasting by water cannon.

* * *

WHAT if after the impeachment charges were shot down by the House of Representatives, the President sincerely reached out to the opposition and offered the leaders a truce? Of course, there's a very real possibility that they would have rejected it outright and perhaps even embarrassed the President. But then, don't you think she would have earned public opinion points with that gesture?

That's what many people expected, I can tell you. And people gave such a policy a high probability of succeeding. Our political culture is such that accommodation and reconciliation are seen as acceptable responses to "defeat," and members of the middle-class were already saying they were tired of divisiveness.

Instead, what we got was CPR, and even deeper and widespread division and disaffection. Guingona, the bishops, and Ja-ja-ja-jamby may have been asking for it, but GMA is also now practically inviting a much bigger backlash.

From catastrophe to peace in Aceh

COMMENTARY

Javier Solana

LATE LAST YEAR, THE INDONESIAN PROVINCE of Aceh bore the brunt of the Indian Ocean tsunami. This was an unspeakable catastrophe, killing nearly 150,000 people, leaving half a million homeless and destroying livelihoods and infrastructure. The world responded with unprecedented generosity to help with the relief effort and the reconstruction.

But we did not want to leave it at that. We also wanted to see whether something good could come out of this disaster. Very discreetly, talks began between the government of Indonesia and the rebel fighters of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) which, for 30 years, had been locked in a violent conflict. After the tsunami, everyone agreed that Aceh deserved a different future.

With the help of former Finnish President Marti Ahtisaari, the talks led in mid-August to a landmark Memorandum of Understanding. Under the agreement, the Aceh rebel fighters agreed to give up their armed struggle for independence and demobilize. In exchange, the Indonesian government offered far-reaching autonomy for Aceh and an amnesty for the GAM fighters. The agreement also provided for the establishment of an Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM).

We in the European Union wanted to seize this occasion and give this peace agreement every support we could. It was a chance to demonstrate, in a tangible way, that the EU is committed to promoting peace, security and justice—not just in our immediate neighborhood but around the world. We were also convinced that this mission would have greater success if carried out in close cooperation with our Asian partners.

Five Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) countries—Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—are participating.

Since a previous agreement between the government and the rebels had foundered on the question of implementation, everyone knew that the presence of an objective team of monitors would be critical. So, at the invitation of the Indonesian government, and with the full support of the rebel fighters, the EU and the five Asean countries formed the AMM. This fruitful regional cooperation has already proven it success and it might be a model for future crisis management operations.

It is not very often that we can say that a peace agreement is being implemented ahead of schedule. And yet that is precisely what is happening in Aceh today. Since mid-September, in what are emotional scenes, rebel fighters have been handing in a quarter of their declared weapons to international monitors. At the same time, around 1,300 Indonesian police and 6,500 troops have been withdrawn from the province. Where violence and distrust reigned, politics and hope are returning. It is exactly what the people of Aceh and the rest of Indonesia want and deserve.

I am delighted that the EU, together with its partners from Asean, is playing an important, supporting role in all this. The Aceh Monitoring Mission oversees the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding that guides the peace process. In particular, it supervises and assists with the demobilization of GAM fighters and the decommissioning and destruction of its weapons; and it monitors the relocation of Indonesian army and police troops and the reintegration into society of GAM members. The AMM also monitors and assists in the field of human rights

This is a unique operation in many respects: the first EU operation in Asia and the first time we are working in this way with countries from Asean. From the top level to that of field inspections, this is really a joint EU-Asean effort. The mission effectively combines Asean knowledge about the region, religion and culture with the EU's experience of crisis management operations. It is worth stressing that this combined EU-Asean format was the only formula that was acceptable to both parties. Moreover, no international mission has ever been deployed more quickly. It proves that when everyone is focused, innovative forms of international partnership can achieve impressive results.

The first phase of decommissioning and demobilization has gone smoother, and faster, than many expected. The second phase is taking place right now, and two more phases are planned for November and December. It is vital to keep up this good momentum and advance with the wider political process, so that peace in Aceh can be entrenched.

To do so, both parties must abide by their commitments. But we are ready to play a facilitating role. Twice a week, the head of the Aceh Mission, Pieter Feith, meets with a top GAM official and an Indonesian government minister to iron out differences and take the peace process forward.

I am pleased that the EU has taken up this challenge. The Aceh mission gives substance to our oft-stated aim of being a strategic partner for Asia and a steadfast promoter of peace. It also shows the great potential of regional cooperation.

The situation in Aceh suggests that humanity is resilient and that, even after a real catastrophe, a society can come together and forge a more hopeful future.

Javier Solana is the high representative of the European Union for the Common Foreign and Security Policy

Fighting fire

YOUNG BLOOD

Cey Enriquez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

LAST MONTH, I CAME HOME TO THE SIGHT OF OUR house burning. Until now, I cannot find the right word to describe how I felt that night, but "surreal" probably comes closest.

For 30 years, my parents lived in that house. I grew up in it, was potty-trained in it, labored in it for hours on end studying my lessons, and cried, celebrated or just stared out into the busy street while living in it. And now, it's gone. There are days when I wake up thinking I am still in my old room. The green walls, the stiff bed…and then I realize they are all gone now.

I did not cry that night. Crying is a sign of despair, hopelessness, sadness, and I was beyond all that.

There were fire-trucks all over the place. As my friend Dep and I hurried toward the building, a friend of my mom led me to their house to spare me the pain of watching the horrific event. As I sat in their living room, I knew what was going on. Regi, my boyfriend, kept calling to give me comfort, but I was too numb to respond. In my head, the fire raged, eating up everything I considered special in my room, and everything my parents had worked for for more than 30 years.

That night, I felt like I was one with the world. Suddenly, I too had a painful story to tell.

I can't really say which was sadder, seeing our house burn down or knowing that it could have been saved. Our unit was farthest from the house where an LPG tank had reportedly leaked and exploded. There were a few minutes when my parents just stood around and stared at our burning house while firemen did exactly the same thing. The scene would have been funny, but this was for real, not a comedy flick.

We were furious at the firemen. How could they have let this happen, when our house was only 15 minutes away from the fire station? Why didn't they have the proper gear—masks, hard caps, hand-held radios, ladders? When it came to being equipped for the job, I would've made a better fireman.

As the fire died down, so did our fury. It was useless to get angry at those firemen. For like us, they too were victims that night. When their heads cleared and their emotions subsided, my parents even apologized to the team head for getting mad at them.

He said he understood. And he too was sad that they came poorly equipped to stop the fire. They had tried mighty hard to contain the blaze. One of his men even got injured while doing his job. Another kindly return the videocam he had retrieved from our house. The night did not consist exclusively of horror stories.

Now we are renting a unit in the opposite building. My parents are busy putting together the requirements for their insurance claim and discussing with the building administration how to go about rehabilitating the place. My brother continues to examine every electronic equipment to see which ones still work or can be repaired. Ate Yolly has been working hard to make our rented unit as homey as possible. You see, when your house burns down, more work follows.

But every step of the way, there were friends who made things easier for us. Until now, it still feels a bit weird to accept material help from others. I remember how I used to complain to God that whenever my bank account reached a certain figure, someone amazingly needs "financial augmentation." After this fire, after learning how to accept and thank people for what they have generously shared with us, I know how true is the saying that it is better to give than to receive. It was—and still is—a humbling experience.

Despite all the goodness my family and I have been showered with, I sometimes ask God, "How could You have let this happen? Where were You when our house was on fire?" As I said in an e-mail thanking all my friends for their help, to this day, I still don't know what His master plan is. Maybe this is really a test of faith. But as my best friend Maui put it: "If it was hard for you to see God's face when your house was on fire, I hope it's easier for you to see Him now in the faces of everyone who's here to help you get through this."

There are so many people to thank. If I were to list them all down, it would take me a day or two. Yes, it may be hard to know God's plans. I will wait for the signs. After all, who am I to rush God and command Him to do something for me right now? There is comfort in believing that in His time, things will fall into their proper places.

But I would like to throw the same question to the government: How could you have let this happen? I can go on and bitterly blame the government, but that would be a futile exercise. Instead, I would like to enjoin government officials and policy makers and everyone on Juan dela Cruz's payroll to please, please take a look around you. It wouldn't hurt to have some concern for your constituents and their living conditions. Look at how our public hospitals have been reduced to a sorry state. See how our public schools have become unbelievably overcrowded. Look at how the lightest rain can get our streets flooded. Maybe then you would feel a twinge of guilt when you dip into the public coffers.

When I talk about the government, I am also talking about the opposition. For as the Bible says, let him who is without sin cast the first stone. Aside from criticizing the administration, what has the opposition offered by way of viable and logical solutions to our problems? And what has it done to make things better for our people?

While our political leaders fight—be it in Congress or in the media—our country's problems continue to fester. This may seem unrelated to our family's experience, but actually I am writing about the same things: falling victim to undesirable circumstances and being failed by our officials.

I am not saying that government officials should solve all of our country's problems. What I am saying is that at the very least, they should not be a part of the problem. They should stop fighting among themselves and work together to put out some fires.

Cey Enriquez, 24, is a copywriter for Leo Burnett advertising agency.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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This one's a deadly CPR

IT IS INTERESTING HOW THE ARROYO government's CPR—the calibrated preemptive response—contrasts sharply with the life-saving medical procedure called CPR (the cardio pulmonary resuscitation).

Apparently, fed up with the unending volleys of criticisms fired in her direction, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, with a snap of her fingers, commanded the police to use truncheons and fire hoses to beat those who dare to shout out the shameful truths about her.

The calibrated preemptive response is one deadly CPR. Militarist and repressive, it kills the people's rights to assemble peaceably and to express themselves freely.

The people want justice and retribution for a crime done. After the impeachment complaints were thrown out by the House of Representatives, they have realized that justice cannot be found within the halls of Congress.

So they have turned to the only place left where they can pursue justice—the streets! (Or would she want the people to go to the mountains instead? Is it surprising if some have chosen to do so?)

The President and her marionettes said she was willing to face the charges against her in the proper forum, but now that the "Hello Garci" tapes are the subject of a Senate investigation, she issues EO 404, which arrogantly forbids potential witnesses, such as the Armed Forces' Brig. Gen. Francisco Guidane and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan, to appear in congressional probes. After this order, who will ever believe that she's got nothing to hide?

On top of it all, the "enemies of state" who—according to the military's intelligence units in their "Knowing The Enemy" video presentation—include militants, activists, media men, peace advocates, church workers, Muslims scholars, Islamic school teachers, Muslim DVD vendors and indigenous peoples or, maybe, even your next-door neighbor whispering bad things about the President. The people's next battle will be against the Anti-Terrorism Bill which, if enacted, will pave the way for new age martial law.

We may not hear a new version of Marcos' "Ang Bagong Lipunan" or come across information that the First Gentleman has started piling up 3,000 pairs of shoes. But surely, the current terrorist scare, the orchestrated bombings, the plot to assassinate GMA and the killing of journalists, progressives and even church workers look very similar—and in a form far worse—to the ominous events that preceded martial law in 1972, such as, the orchestrated bombings in major urban centers, the red scare, the attempted assassination of then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, the brutal dispersal of protesters, and the repression of the freedom of the press.

We have long been under an undeclared martial law and only People Power can push out the pretender queen out of the people's Palace.

—MAY VARGAS,
National Minority Resource Center - Tunay na Alyansa ng Bayan Alay sa Katutubo (NMRC-TABAK),
Brgy. Pinyahan Diliman Quezon City,
tabakphils@yahoo.com

School not to blame for discrepancies

I AM WRITING ON BEHALF OF ANN Arbor Montessori in reference to the news item titled "Kindergarten school, owner face tax raps." (PDI, 9/30/05) We would like to set the record straight for people who have placed their trust in us and in our institution.

While at present our financial records are under review by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, there is no pending case for tax evasion against our institution, nor against its owners.

The BIR examination was prompted by a disgruntled former school accountant who was dismissed from our school for forgery and other irregularities which were committed against our corporation. It is just ironic that we are now under BIR scrutiny upon the instance of the very same person whom we entrusted with the responsibility of seeing to it that we fulfilled all our financial obligations with the government. Thus, all discrepancies and irregularities that have been alleged by her can be traced back to her acts and deeds.

We are just a victim of a trial by publicity where the persecutor is a dismissed employee whose sole purpose is to take revenge. It is sad that the media is being used by her. Our only hope is for the media to remain fair and balanced on this case.

Our institution exists to this day because of its untarnished reputation. We are deeply concerned that our name might have been tainted because of the misleading news story. We ask that next time the media get our side also before running a news story on this issue.

May we take this opportunity to thank all our students, employees, clients and friends for their continued confidence in our institution. We assure them that we will continue to deliver the same services and quality education on to the future. The truth will come out and it will set us free.

—CHRISTINE CARPIO-MINTU,
vice president,
Ann Arbor Montessori,
390 El Grande Ave., BF Homes,
Parañaque City

Wrong priorities

IT'S A SAD AND PITIFUL NATION THAT goes berserk over pugilists and beauty queens while hunger, disease, crime and poverty stalk the land—even as a very deficient educational system, a rotten political system, inept and dishonest military and police forces and excessive religiosity paralyze the nation.

The Philippine government is only good at exporting its people, whose remittances are the only thing that is keeping the RP economy afloat. But this edge is now being challenged by other overpopulated countries, which are offering cheaper labor.

The Philippines in now in a situation much like the Middle East when Jesus and and many other prophets were preaching there. Europe had its Dark Ages. It seems the Philippines is about to enter its very own Dark Age and join Zimbabwe, Malawi and other sub-Saharan nations.

In any case, the Philippines is, at present, not really a functional nation but a collection of satrapies each ruled by a political dynasty which have no other aims but to remain forever in power. These entities are kept in power by a semblance of a national government which is completely dysfunctional; this is largely due to the Filipino personality and religiosity.

That is why we read in the newspapers of Filipinos dying of meningitis, malaria, cholera, food poisoning, dengue, tuberculosis, rabies and other diseases which advanced nations have conquered. That is why we read of class wars and land-grabbing or land disputes, the most emblematic of which is the Hacienda Luisita conflict. That is why we read of arguments about overpopulation, which civilized and prosperous nations have long since settled in favor of population control. And so on.

—ROB HANAN,
robhanan@robhanan.com

A SCAVENGER carries off things for recycling at Payatas dump.

Breaking the cycle of living in poverty from day-to-day

THE LETTER "WHY THE PHILIPPINES remains impoverished" by Eduardo Luis (PDI, 10/01/05) served no helpful purpose for the millions of hard working Filipinos who are struggling to survive each day, many of them suffering isolation from their family and loneliness in foreign lands. That type of armchair commentary simply added to the frustration already felt by many.

In the face of economic adversity, how many times can one rise to pick up the pieces of broken dreams or dashed hopes? How many times can one look at the proceeds of his or her effort, only to face the reality that the amount received is barely enough to cover the day's jeepney ride/s that will bring him or her to work, let alone provide a decent life for the family? None of these people chose poverty.

To them, it began as a question of opportunity and having enough money to take advantage of opportunity. The reality is one's rising early each morning and returning late in the evening from work every day. There is very little time to think of ways to break this cycle. There is very little time for the so-called initiative or resourcefulness that would change one's destiny (often described as God's will by the philosophical Filipinos). God's will is not some barrier of complacency, but simply a comfort statement: "We will try again tomorrow."

I am not an economist. But I think it is clear to most observers that the consumer base in the Philippines is quite small. This is because the average income in the regions is about 10 percent of what needs to be; and in the urban centers, it is about 50 percent of the minimum needed by a city-based employee. With little money, there is little consumption. With little consumption, there can only be slow growth for small industries that all together provide most of the employment opportunities here or elsewhere in the world.

By providing local employment, robust small enterprises help to stabilize population in the countryside. Without sufficient job opportunities in rural areas, the migration of people (in need of work) to the cities is inevitable. The migration, of course, results in the work force exceeding the labor requirement in cities. In general, this situation causes two things; a downward pressure on real income and very high unemployment rate.

—DONALD ATKINSON,
don@biostatengineering.com

Government alibi to abuse citizens

THE VIOLENT DISPERSAL (BY OVER-REacting police authorities) of anti-government protests clearly violates human rights. This brutality is being justified in the name of the calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy recently adopted by the Arroyo administration. But CPR is nothing but an alibi of the government to prevent Filipino citizens from exercising their right to express their grievances against the unjust economic and political situation persisting today. We are now seeing the return of martial law which was declared in 1972 in the name of the "rule of law."

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza says his refusal to issue rally permits is meant to protect the majority who are not involved. It is a false, misleading statement. The issues that drive the demonstrators to the streets concern and affect every citizen of this country. The silence of the majority should not be interpreted as non-support for their cause. And certainly, those in power or their minions have no right to stop citizens, no matter how few they may be, from exercising and asserting their constitutionally guaranteed rights.

By their cruelty, the authorities make themselves despicable objects of condemnation by the very people whom they have sworn to serve and protect. They must be prosecuted.

—LEONOR B. GOMEZ, Deputy Director
for Operations, TFDP Visayas,
lnr_gomez@yahoo.com

Paging brilliant politicians

I HAD BEEN MONITORING THE ONGOing political turmoil in the Philippines, which has been brought about by the alleged rigging of the 2004 presidential election by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The House of Representatives has spoken, but some lawmakers continue pushing to resort to extra-constitutional processes in their efforts to remove the President.

Don't get me wrong. I am not defending Ms Arroyo. But the people have already suffered so much. It doesn't matter much to them who stays in Malacañang for as long as they have enough food on the table and, most importantly, they have jobs and live a descent life. Unfortunately, Juan de la Cruz does not see any relief from his sufferings and frustration in the foreseeable future.

Where are the supposedly "brilliant" politicians of this country? The problem with these rich, powerful, educated but dumb politicians, they can't stop "politicking" even after elections, and they don't understand the urgent need for "nation-building."

Their big mouths open loud when they smell something wrong, but they're tight-lipped when it comes to offering solutions.

Today, our country is facing a very serious problem in the surging oil prices. This has caused greater economic uncertainty. The continuing political crisis has made matters worse. How I wish the so-called "brilliant" politicians of our country will work together more sincerely to improve the lives of our people.

—JOSE TEJIDO,
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INQBOX

Your message to the 4 Filipino boxing champs: Brian Viloria, Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista, Bobby Pacquiao and Manny Pacquiao?

In times of grave disillusionment and distrust
to the government, they have given us reason to be proud of who we are, and to hope for a better country, the Phils., in the future..
—Glenda Inserto, 50, *Malinao, Aklan*

Congratulations! Hope you stay humble 2 everyone.. so that God will always guide you..
—felipe langahid, 32, *zamboanga*

first of all i would like 2 congrats our boxers champions, my message 2 our boxers
is 2 continue their bravery..
—Jose Cydel S. Daen, 39, *Caloocan City*

The 4 Filipino boxing champs are great fighters both in the ring & in their real lives, they punch with integrity.
—john paul vailoces, 24, *cebu*

Dis is proof that Filipinos are globally competitive. U made us proud. Always remember that God is thicker than money..
—Jerome Fernandez, *quezon city*

The knights of columbus Tagum City would like to share with you the great news to spread to the world..
—Mark Cortez, 31, *Tagum city*

Ipagpatuloy ninyo ang magandang dala ninyong karangalan sa ating bansa. MABUHAY KAYO!!!
—zenaida caguioa, *urdaneta city*

Keep ur spirits high.. Every jab reminds d world that Filipinos never give up a good fight.
—glenda inserto, *malinao, aklan*

Congrats, Now ur HANDS brought you up there.
Now U are the pride of dis land & its people.
—Rodolfo De Lara, 46, *Bustos, Bulacan*

Congrats 4d job well done! Thank you for making us proud, and for serving as inspiration for us to go on with life, no matter how hard how hard life is..
—Jennifer S. Cabote, 23, *Santiago City*

Mabuhay kayo! U make us proud 2 b pinoy !!!

In the wake of higher oil prices, in what specific ways can you help conserve energy?

Turn off d TV set as soon as I hear my mother snoring in front of it..
—Lorna E. Barile, 56, *Los Banos*

Simple lang naman 2 conserve energy, all we need are: 1)SELF-DISCIPLINE! 2)SIMPLE LIVING. Kaya natin 'to!!!
—Dennis Vincent Salubo, 20, *Malaybalay City*

Biking! :)
—Roche Cuyco, *makati city*

have a meeting with d kids at home, assign them as light guards. Main duty: To turn-off lights when not in use.
—roland vingno, 41, *laguna*

LESS USE of APPLIANCES with HIGH ENERGY CONSUMPTION like AIRCONDITIONERS; TURN OFF UNECESSARY LIGHTS
—james philip narisma, 39, *iloilo city*

to help cOnserve energy, i walk frm my haus 2 wOrkplace, its a way of saving mOney 2!
—marie fe melchOr, 25, *valencia city*

Choose a smaller car, think small, it costs less, in terms of the materials it takes to manufacture it, and use refined motor oil in ur vehicle, you'll be saving energy especially our non-renewable petroleum resources.. It will likely be more fuel-efficient..
—elmer guevarra, mother goose, *urdaneta city*

to conserve energy: I'd rather take a bus or a shuttle service, instead of using my car in going to work to conserve energy.
—jouie calma, 32, *paranaque city*

by endorsing bicycles!
—tiara mejos, 18, *davao city*

i will cook rice good 4 altanghap (almusal, tanghali, hapunan), tipid na sa kuryente, pati sa pagod. Bukas ilaw & electric fan only if really needed.
—gigi sicat, *muntinlupa cty*

Lets all go back 2 basics: use coal, bicycles; just walk; limit use of electric appliances; take public conveyances.
—Lorenz NAMALATA, CDO, *cavite city*

The 1st and most important thing we can do, is CUT DOWN our use of Vehicles. For 10 sunny days a month, try to go without a car, but instead use bicycles for transportation. Reward your family by going out for a picnic, without using your car... Driving a car is a privilege, and a luxury for two or more people to share. Every 5 years, we add about 100,000,000 more vehicles to our planet! Explore your world on foot or by bicycle. Walk, use bicycles, or take public transit to work, once a week, once a month.
—Elmer Guevarra, Ecology instructor, *Urdaneta city*

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2 kidnap negotiators' bodies found

PIKIT, NORTH COTABATO—KIDNAPPERS KILLED two men who were negotiating for a child's release in the marshland of Maguindanao.

Supt. Danny Reyes, chief of the Kidapawan City police, said the decomposing remains of Albert Alcular and Quedan Lim, were recovered in a shallow grave in Barangay Kabasalan in Pikit town on Sunday.

Reyes said the victims' remains showed they were shot and stabbed many times allegedly by their captors led by a certain Robert Carbon alias Kamarudin.

Last month, Alcular and Lim met with the captors of three-year-old Ralph Asley who was seized by his nanny, Hazel Tuala and her boyfriend Carbon in August.

Ralph is the son of Divina Alcular, a bank employee and resident of Kidapawan City whose husband, Alocious, is an overseas worker.

Reyes said the child was seized by Tuala and was sold to members of the Pentagon kidnap gang.

"The grandpa (Albert Alcular) negotiated for the release of the kid but they ended up being held for ransom," Reyes said.

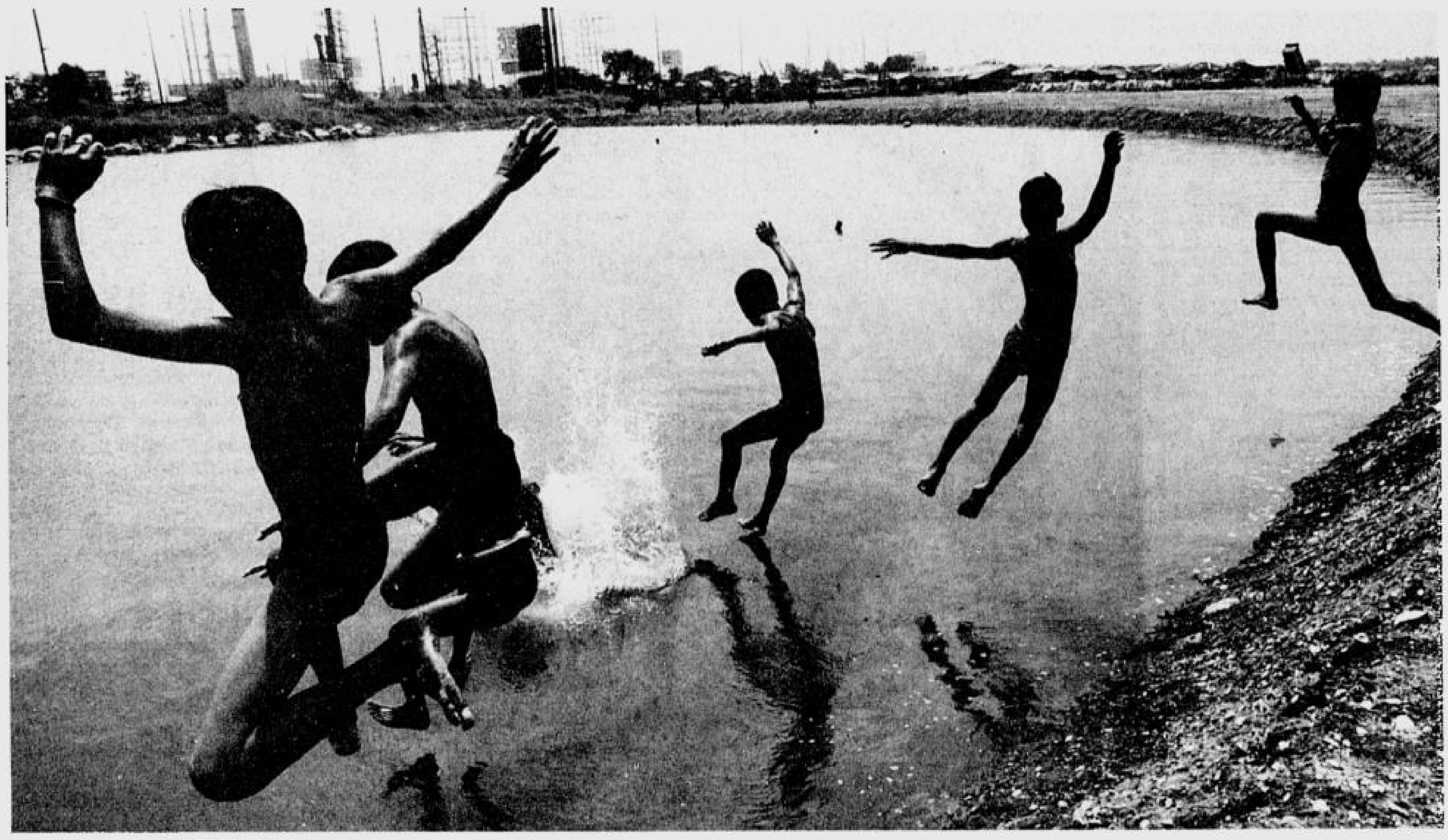
The boy was freed through the efforts of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front two Saturdays ago. A week earlier, the family reported that the elder Alcular, who resided in Sultan Kudarat province, and his pal had been missing and were last seen in Sultan sa Barongis town in Maguindanao.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said Kamarudin is a member of the Pentagon gang and was the one behind the execution of Alcular and Lim in SK Pendatun town.

Their remains were brought to Pikit through several tributaries in the Liguasan marshland, Kabalu said.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol condemned the killings and directed the local police to exert efforts in getting back at the suspects.

Local officials and residents of Barangay Kabasalan said they observed nothing unusual in the village the past two weeks. They were surprised to see policemen and Army soldiers searching for the remains of two missing persons in the village. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



GAMES CHILDREN PLAY

RAFFY LERMA

Unmindful of the dangers the polluted water may bring to their health, children residing in the coastal area of Bacoor, Cavite dive and swim in the shallow portion of Manila Bay.

Quarry funds still short of projected gov't target

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Income from taxes on the quarrying and hauling of Mt. Pinatubo's sand in Pampanga grossed at least P26 million from January to Oct. 10, the provincial government reported.

The collection was only P4 million shy of the P30-million target Gov. Mark Lapid set this year, provincial administrator Fidel Arcenas told the INQUIRER.

However, the earnings were "still way, way below" the P150 million guaranteed net income proposed by the Natural Resources Development Corp., the business arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao said.

"It still is very, very low," Guiao said, referring to the capitol's quarry revenues.

Lapid and seven provincial board members rejected NRDC's proposal last May, saying it was the local government, not the national government or any of its agencies, that has the sole mandate to collect local taxes.

The capitol collects a tax of P300 per truckload of sand. Industry sources said between 2,000 and 3,000 truckloads of sand are hauled daily.

The NRDC, which supervised the collections of quarry taxes from 1999 to 2001, sought to handle the task again on the heels of alleged graft.

Then NRDC chief Victor Corpus had wanted to use the funds for a national reforestation program.

Guiao tapped the NRDC as a collection arm after the capitol's income from quarrying dipped from P145.2 million in 1999 to P10.5 million in 2004.

The Commission on Audit has not done a special audit despite the drastic revenue drop, certifications from the state-owned National Printing Office that several receipts were fake and two congressional committees had noted a number of flaws in the collection system.

Lapid and his father, former governor and now Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, had denied Guiao's accusation of plunder.

In the recent income report, Arcenas gave no details as to how much were the revenue shares of Bacolor, Floridablanca, Porac and Mabalacat towns and their barangays.

Under the local government code, the towns and villages were supposed to get 30 and 40 percent, respectively, of the income. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ROUNDUP

Blast kills 3 persons

CEBU CITY—A young woman, her aunt and her 2-year-old male cousin were killed while the boy's father and another cousin were in critical condition following an explosion at their house that also served as a makeshift factory in Sitio Radar, Barangay Babag, Lapulapu City on Oct. 11. Jay-ar Bontilao, 2, died on the spot. His cousin Maricris Berdon, 18, died of severe burns at the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center the next day. The boy's mother Maryjane, died two days later in the hospital. Injured were Jay-ar's father Jay, 26, and cousin Neneth Mingo, 18. Elma Bontilao, sister of Maryjane, said the explosion was caused by a cigarette butt thrown at the pile of firecrackers that were being wrapped by Maryjane.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

40 years for rapists

BACOLOD CITY—The Regional Trial Court in Kabankalan City sentenced two brothers to 40 years in prison each for repeatedly raping their cousin in 2000 and 2001. Judge Henry Arles on Oct. 6 also ordered Victor and Dandan Noriega to indemnify their cousin P50,000 each. Court records showed that Victor, then 27, a carpenter, raped his cousin on Aug. 9, 2001 while the then 10-year-old girl was sleeping in his house in Kabankalan. The girl told the social workers and the police that she was also repeatedly raped by Dandan, then 23, in August 1999.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Bohol cop shot dead

CEBU CITY—A policeman was shot dead while responding to a stolen vehicle alarm in Carmen town, Bohol on Thursday night. SPO1 Edgardo Pacapac, 47, a father of eight children and resident of Poblacion Norte, Carmen, suffered one bullet wound in his back and two in his chest. Carmen police chief Insp. Urbano Macalos said police in nearby San Miguel town told them that two suspects who stole a motorcycle were heading toward Carmen. Macalos said Pacapac and PO3 Leo de la Victoria gave chase but Pacapac was shot by one of the suspects.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Village head slain

COTABATO CITY—Motorcycle-riding suspects gunned down a village official here on Friday evening and wounded the victim's wife during the attack. Leonardo Dee, barangay kagawad of Rosary Heights 13 and a geodetic engineer, was driving his wife, Victoria, home when the suspects fired at him. Police said Dee, 68, was driving his owner-type jeep along Sinsuat Avenue when the attack occurred. Victoria was hit in the finger by a stray bullet. Chief Insp. Banarin Kamaong, city police spokesperson, said it was Mrs. Dee who drove her husband to the hospital. The barangay official died from a single bullet wound in the abdomen. Kamaong said the police were considering at least two angles in Dee's death, including politics.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Mindoro trade fair

CITY OF CALAPAN—The Technology and Livelihood Development Center and the Provincial Agriculturist's Office will spearhead an agro-industrial trade fair on Nov. 7-16 as part of Oriental Mindoro's 55th Founding Anniversary. The fair will feature an exhibit of processed and unprocessed agricultural products, marine-based products, meat and poultry products; toys, gifts and housewares, home decor, furniture and furnishings, farm implements and metal crafts, Mangyan crafts and products and tour packages.

Marciano T. Virola Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bacolod Church leaders demand probe of violations vs Jarques

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

JARQUE

BACOLOD CITY—BACOLOD Bishop Vicente Navarra and the 86 clergy and lay leaders of the Bacolod Diocese are calling on the Philippine government to act on "the apparent human rights violation" committed against retired Brig. Gen. Raymundo Jarque and his wife, Xenia, when they were interrogated and jailed in the United States last month.

"We, the clergy and lay faithful of the Diocese of Bacolod strongly protest the inhuman, unjust and unfair treatment of the Jarques in Texas," they said in a statement furnished the INQUIRER yesterday.

The statement said the incident had added trauma to the couple, especially Xenia, considering that they were still grieving over the recent death of their son, Capt. Rene Jarque.

The one-page statement of support for the Jarques would be submitted to the Senate committee on foreign affairs chaired by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Rodolfo Alvarez of the Justice for Jarque, Justice for All Movement said they also obtained statements of support from the Bacolod City Council and Negros Occidental provincial board that were submitted to the Senate committee.

Jarque said he was grateful to the bishop and all those who signed the statement of support for him. But he stressed that he was not just fighting for justice for himself and his wife but for the future treatment of other Filipinos entering the United States.

Jarque and his wife were held and detained by US Immigration officials shortly after their arrival at the Dallas Forth Worth International Airport on Sept. 20 due to his affiliation with the communist-led National Democratic Front, which is in the US list of terrorist groups.

Jarque told the US officials that he was no longer a member of the rebel group and was only a consultant of the NDF in their peace talks with the government.

The couple was later brought to the Euless City Jail, a facility for common criminals about eight hours from the airport, where they were placed in separate cells.

The couple decided to take the next flight back to the Philippines rather than remain in jail while waiting for the US officials to decide whether or not they could stay in their country.

But Jarque complained that they did not receive any help from the Philippine government officials even if they had been informed about what happened to them.

Tourism execs worry over bird flu fear

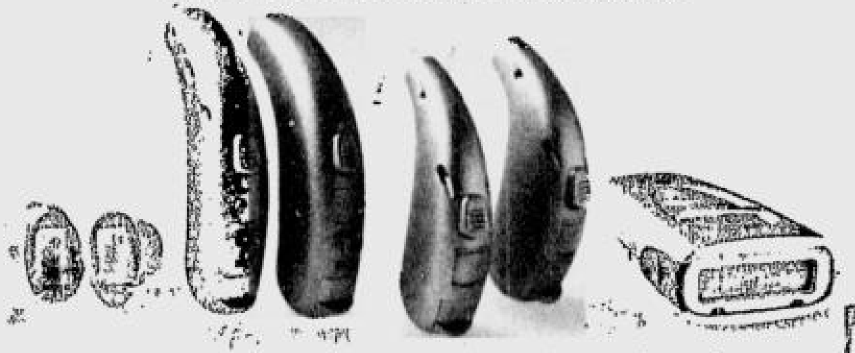
BUTUAN CITY—A TOURISM OFFICIAL HERE has expressed concern that the threat of a possible outbreak of the dreaded bird flu virus could deal a heavy blow on the thriving tourism industry in the Caraga Region.

Letty Tan, regional tourism director, said the region, which hosts two premier ecotourism destinations in the country, the Lake Mainit and Agusan Marshland, is likely to suffer a "tourism fallout" in the event of a bird flu outbreak.

Tan said local and foreign tourists have become wary of visiting the sites since the government listed them as among migratory bird "hotpots" that could spread the virus.

"We are really concerned [with] the effects of bird flu [on] our tourism promotion efforts," Tan said.

Fearful of the virus' transmission to humans, local authorities have stepped up proactive efforts by regulating the entry of people into Lake Mainit. *Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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Dissolution of water firm starts legal war

By Peter La. Julian
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN FERNANDO CITY—A JUDGE here has upheld a resolution of the board of the Metro La Union Water District dissolving itself, transferring control of the water firm to the provincial government and paving the way for the firm's privatization.

Judge Adolfo Alagar of the regional trial court here said the dissolution of the MLUWD board and the firm's transfer to the provincial government were "in the best interest of the general public."

But Alagar's decision, which in effect dissolved the MLUWD, was immediately contested by lawyers of the MLUWD board and of the La Union Water District Workers Association Towards Effective Reform based here.

The employees' group earlier opposed the move of the La Union provincial government to take over the water district.

There was no legal basis for the "planned dissolution of the water firm," association president Eliseo Lubrica said, adding that privatizing it does not serve public interest.

Lawyer Ferdinand Concubierta, one of two lawyers for the more than 80 employees of the water district, told the INQUIRER that Alagar's order was "anomalous" because there was no hearing since the case was remanded to Alagar's sala early this year.

"There was not even a pre-trial hearing where both parties would be given an opportunity to present their side," he said.

Concubierta said he would file a motion for reconsideration within the 15-day period required by the court. Alagar's order was received by Concubierta's office on Sept. 28.

On the other hand, provincial administrator Jeffrey Tilan, and lawyers Reynaldo Mosuela and Gerardo Viloria, who is representing the Office of the Solicitor General, said they have already prepared a copy of a motion for reconsideration on behalf of the La Union provincial government that planned the privatization of the MLUWD.

Quoting government lawyers, Tilan said they were not satisfied with Alagar's order since the judge based his decision only on pleadings and other documents submitted by both parties.

The case was filed last year at the sala of Judge Victor Viloria, who inhibited himself. Judge Antonio Carbonnel also refused to hear the case, which was then raffled off to Alagar's sala.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Alagar for comment but a court employee said the judge was out of the country.

WAR GAMES EXPENSES

US to spend $100,000 on Luzon contracts

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC Zone—The United States military was spending $100,000 (roughly P5.6 million) on local contracts for its 17-day war games in Luzon that began in this former American air base on Monday.

Marines Capt. Burrell Parmer, US public information officer, said the amount only represents contracts for the transportation services of the troops, medical, dental, school and construction supplies for civic missions during the Talon Vision and amphibious landing exercises.

More money was expected to be funneled into the local economy as each of the 4,500 US marines and sailors spends an average of between $50 and $100 daily on food while assigned at Clark in Angeles City, Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija and Sangley Point in Cavite, Parmer said.

Expenditures

Expenditures could be higher as there are also spending for jet fuel, lodging, landing and docking fees on airports and seaports. The amount for these items were not disclosed.

Money for "liberty," the military term for rest and recreation, was expected to be minimal.

The rigorous training and schedule and having a "war fighting commander who doesn't play around" would certainly give troops—half of them pulled out from war-torn Iraq for the training—"less time for liberty," Parmer said. Liberty outside Clark, a former base town, has meant expenditures on booze and sex workers in about 100 night clubs at the city's red light district on Fields Avenue.

While the war games boosted the crisis-wracked economy, these, too, highlighted the big disparities between the US and Philippine militaries.

In Monday's parachute jumps, TSgt. Jude Dalloran of the Philippine Marines used a 12-year-old gear.

"*Puro tagpi* (It's been patched up several times)," Dalloran said before boarding a C-130 cargo plane.

His unit, the Force Reckon Battalion based in Fort Bonifacio, only has a set of 12 parachute packs for its 26 skydivers, according to Maj. Antonio Rosario.

"These have lasted long because of proper maintenance," Rosario said. Each gear costs $1,800 each, he added.

Expensive

Because these were expensive, Rosario said that during missions he and his men could not afford not to retrieve the parachutes.

In terms of air power, the Philippines was a poor match.

In the fleet of the US Marines alone were AB-8B jet fighters Harriers, CH-46E Sea Knights, CH-53D Sea Stallions, UH-1N Huey choppers and AH-1W Super Cobras.

The only aircraft that was common to the local fleet was a C-130 cargo plane, of which there were only two in the Philippine Air Force.

The US Navy has a separate air fleet, according to Parmer who declined to give exact numbers.

Given limitations in materials and equipment and with the aim of attaining inter-operability for defense ties, what can the US military learn from the joint training?

"A lot," said Parmer. That includes skills in jungle warfare, he said.

Overfishing threat to Lingayen Gulf

DAGUPAN CITY—NOT ONLY ILLEGAL fishing but also legal fishing activities have contributed to the degradation of the Lingayen Gulf, Alaminos Mayor Hernani Braganza said here on Saturday.

Braganza said while blast fishing had been stopped in the Hundred Islands National Park here, legal fishing activities such as fish cage operation and the use of fish traps have destroyed the marine resources of the gulf.

He was guest speaker during the graduation of 25 police officers and men who underwent a two-week fish examiners' course sponsored by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

Braganza said the culture of fish in cages pollutes the gulf because of the excess commercial feeds that find their way into the sea bed.

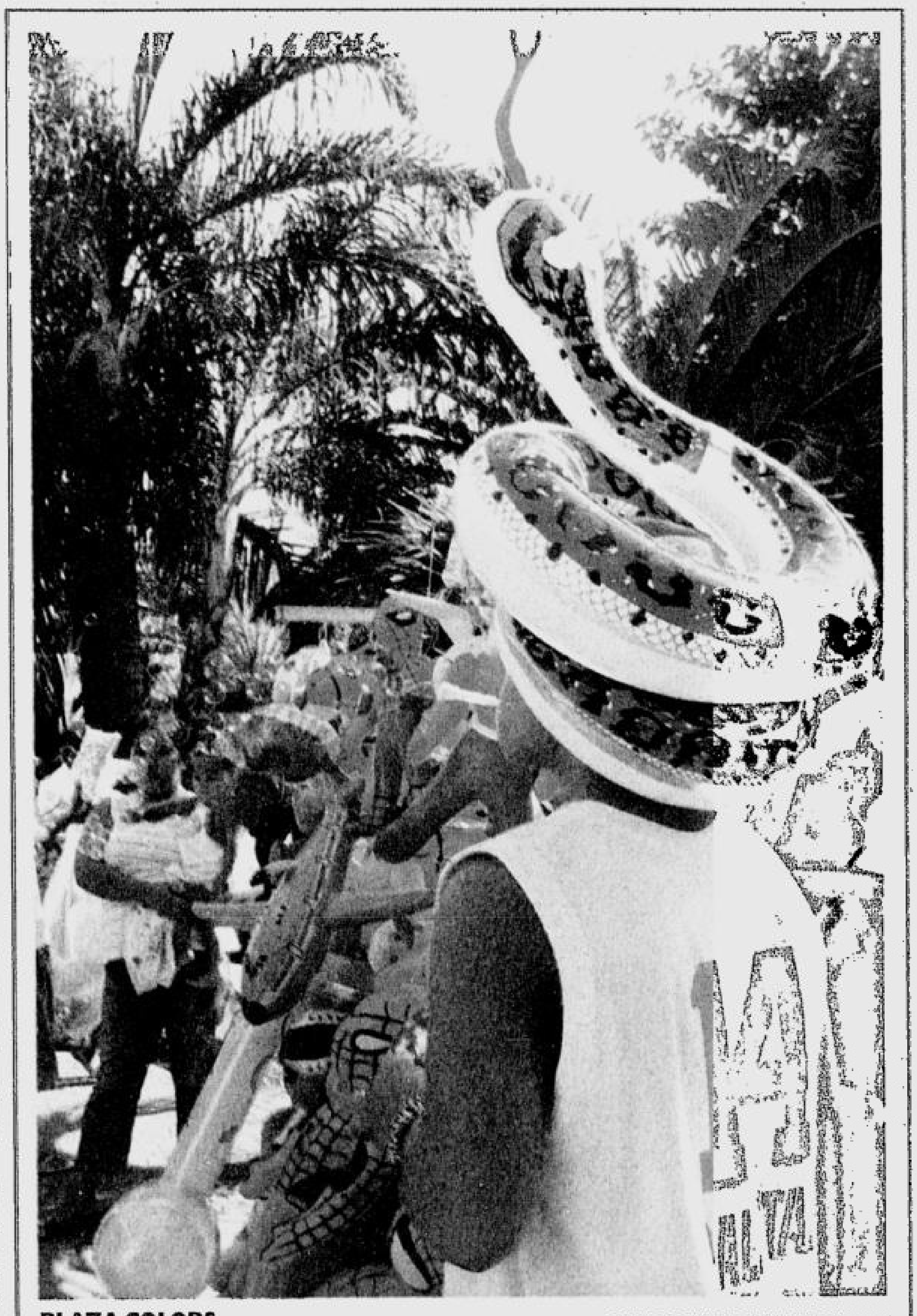
Cage operation

In other countries, cage operation is only for six months. It is stopped for the next six months to enable the sea to cleanse itself, he said.

"In the province, the operation is whole year so there is no way for the sea to self-cleanse," he noted.

He also noted even very small fishes were caught by fine-mesh nets and by fish traps that dot the shallow parts of the gulf. He said the small fishes were left in the beaches to rot.

Braganza said the live coral cover in the Lingayen Gulf is at "very low 1-10 percent" while the mangrove forest cover is down to four square kilometers. The fish catch is declining by 20 percent yearly, he said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



PLAZA COLORS

LEONCIO BALBIN/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A young vendor tries his luck in the plaza of Candon City in Ilocos Sur, drawing attention to the bright colored toys that he is selling for a living.

10 richest co-ops have ₱684M in total assets

NAGA CITY—THE COOPERATIVE Development Authority (CDA) in Bicol has listed 10 multimillion-peso cooperatives that continue to operate successfully.

These cooperatives now have an aggregate total assets of P684 million.

Lawyer Maria Lourdes Pacao, CDA legal department chief, said the 10 cooperatives exemplified the viability and continuing relevance of cooperative enterprises even as more than half of the registered ones have failed.

Pacao said the 10 were chosen from 1,232 operational cooperatives all over the region, based on December 2004 records.

Among Bicol's six provinces, Sorsogon has the most among the 10 millionaire cooperatives with four.

Three are in Camarines Sur, two in Camarines Norte and one in Albay.

Top on the list is Sorsogon Electric Cooperative, the only power cooperative in Bicol registered by the CDA, with total assets of P263 million.

The Basud Development Cooperative (Badevco) in the province of Camarines Norte places second with total assets of P97 million.

Originally named the Basud Credit Union Inc., the Badevco started in 1967 with 25 members and a paid-up capital of P180 only.

"Today, the Badevco has become the leading exponent of cooperative development in the province of Camarines Norte," a CDA document said.

Occupying the third position among the top 10 millionaire cooperatives in Bicol is the Gubat St. Anthony Credit Cooperative (GSACC) in Gubat, Sorsogon. Founded on April 8, 1964, its assets grew to a total of P95 million from an initial capital of P222.

From a single-line cooperative that focused on credit and lending business only, the GSACC has already branched out to other operations.

The fourth richest cooperative is a community-based health services delivery system with a hospital founded by young doctors in 1994 at Pangpang, Sorsogon City.

With total assets now of P55 million, the Sorsogon Medical Mission Hospital and Health Services Cooperative employs a health care financing scheme that pools the average cost of health expenditure in the community to make health services affordable. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2 dead, 25 brought to hospitals after eating 'litub'

CEBU CITY—TWO PERSONS DIED while 25 others were hospitalized on Monday after eating a variety of seashell locally known as "litub" in Argao, around 66.9 km south of Cebu City.

SPO1 Edwin Miranda of the Argao police identified the fatalities as Absalona Geagonia, 51, and Gregorio Sabanal, both from Barangay Botong, a mountain village around 25 km from the town proper.

Sabanal died Monday last week at dawn while Geagonia died in the afternoon of the same day in their respective houses in Barangay Botong.

Of the 25 other victims, only eight patients were still being treated on Wednesday last week at the Isidro Kintanar Memorial Hospital in Argao, Miranda said.

Miranda said Geagonia's live-in partner Demetrio Cantila, who was among the victims, told him that most of the victims bought their *litub* on Friday from a female vendor at the market in Sitio Bayabas, Barangay Cansuji, also a mountain village of Argao adjoining Barangay Botong.

The vendor, identified as a certain Rachelle, is now being investigated by the municipal health office, Miranda said.

Miranda said Cantila told him that they bought the "litub" for P40 a kilo.

Miranda said the "litub" was sold minus its shells. The couple ate the fried shellfish meat on Friday evening but did not feel any discomfort and ate the same food on Saturday morning.

Miranda said Geagonia and Cantila started vomiting at dawn of Sunday. But Geagonia's 80-year-old father who also ate the food was spared, the policeman said.

Miranda said they could not say it was a case of red tide poisoning as there was no report yet from the Isidro Kintanar Memorial Hospital.

Last September, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Central Visayas had ordered the ban of shellfish coming from Maqueda and Villareal bays in Western Samar because of red tide contamination. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

PCSO seen as source of funds for docs' scholarship plan

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

ORMOC CITY—THE SHORTAGE of doctors in Eastern Visayas can be over in five years if Presidential Assistant for Eastern Visayas Victor Domingo succeeds in getting funding for a scholarship program for medical students to fill the gap left by the migration of physicians to other countries.

Domingo told members of the Regional Development Council (RDC) and the Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) that he would bring the proposed funding of the scholarship program being pushed by local government units to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) board of which he is a member.

"I will ask the board to help Eastern Visayas in this problem. Precisely, the PCSO exists because of charity," Domingo said.

"Maybe 100 scholars coming from the entire region would be enough," he added to the applause of more than 100 persons present during the joint meeting of the two councils both chaired by Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias.

Asked later what are the chances that the program will get funding from the PCSO, Domingo replied: "Ninety-nine percent."

During the meeting, Biliran Gov. Rogelio Espina, RDC social committee chair, raised the alarm on the shortage of doctors in Eastern Visayas.

"The migration of doctors to other countries to work as nurses has become deplorable, even degrading," Espina said.

But he said the government could not do anything about the migration because doctors are paid very little in the country.

"The only solution to this problem is to grant scholarships to deserving individuals," he said. "By deserving, I mean those who have a heart to help their fellow Filipino, not for personal interest."

He cited an instance where a teacher asked him where her daughter, a Physical Therapy graduate, could get scholarship to study medicine.

"My daughter has a standing offer to work in the US but declined because she wants to become a doctor to help fellow Filipinos," Espina said quoting the teacher as saying.

The teacher's daughter, he added, should be the kind of scholars that the local government units should be looking for.

Southern Leyte earlier proposed the scholarship scheme to students taking up medicine. The grant would cover tuition, allowances and books.

But those who would avail themselves of the scholarship would have to sign a contract that they would work in government-run hospitals for 16 years or 4 years each for the five year study grant.

According to Espina, the total cost of sending a scholar to the University of the Philippines School of Medicine in Manila was about P295,998—P136,748 in tuition and P158,250 in incidental expenses including books and allowances.

"Actually this is only P59,000 per year. A small amount really," said Espina.

For 100 scholars, PCSO would shell about P30 million, which was "attainable," said Domingo.

Domingo pointed out that the scholars should come from the towns that needed doctors most.

But Lerias said each municipality should look for the scholars and contribute for the expenses as "a sort of equity to assure them of physicians."

In a study conducted by UP Manila, Espina said that in Eastern Visayas, the average ratio was one doctor for every 20,000 residents.

But the radio was higher in Southern Leyte, which was one doctor for every population of 16,000, said the Biliran governor.

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Parañaque makes sure bird haven safe

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WITH A BIRD SANCTUARY tucked within its territory, the Parañaque City government is taking extra precautions that its fine feathered residents are safe with warnings of an avian flu outbreak in the country.

The deadly H5NI strain of bird flu had been found in some countries in Asia and in Turkey recently.

Migratory birds have nested just off the Coastal Road in Barangay La Huerta near the Fishermen's Wharf.

Nelson Lacambra, spokesperson of Mayor Florencio Bernabe told the INQUIRER yesterday that the city has formed Task Force Avian Flu to monitor the birds that have started flocking to the preserve with the approach of winter in neighboring countries.

The bird sanctuary, which sits on a five- to seven-hectare property of the Public Estate Authority, used to be a plain mangrove infested with weeds, Lacambra said.

"With the discovery of thousands of birds living in the area, the city's Cultural and Tourism Office cleared the land of the weeds and developed it into a bird haven in 2003," he said.

Since then, the sanctuary has been home to some 1,500 to 2,000 varieties of bird species, the Cultural and Tourism Office said.

Several groups of bird lovers, watchers and various photography clubs have been making regular visits to the place, making the preserve one of the favorite hubs in the Metro for bird watchers.

"They usually visit the place on weekends," said Lacambra, adding that the city was also planning to improve the place and develop it into a tourist spot.

But with the bird flu scare, the city would have to divert its efforts first to protecting the sanctuary from the deadly disease, he said.

The newly created task force will convene for the first time on Thursday to discuss the city's preparations against the possible outbreak of bird flu.

Lacambra said the task force would also embark on an information drive to warn the public about the disease.

However, he stressed that the move was not meant to create panic among residents as well as bird lovers.

"This move is necessary because some people are ignoring the news that there could be a possible outbreak of the disease here in the country," he said.

The task force would also monitor backyard poultry owners and dealers in poultry products.

Representatives from the City Health Office, Agriculture Office, City Planning Office, the City Information Office, the Solid Waste and Environment Sanitation Office, the local Department of Education, the city police chief, 16 barangay captains and the mayor's public relations group have been tapped for the task force.

MAGHANDA AT MAKIALAM!

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

METROBRIEFS

Mall break-in

A MEDICAL diagnostic center at the Robinson's Galleria in Quezon City lost more than P1 million worth of medical equipment, cash, and other valuables to burglars in what is believed to be an inside job. The break-in at Biomedics Inc. on the third level of the mall occurred between 8 p.m. of Oct. 16 and 10 a.m. of Oct. 17, police said. Missing were an ultrasound machine, an electrocardiogram machine, a Nokia 3210 cellular phone, and P18,000 in cash according to Antonio Austria, president of Biomedics. Investigator on case PO2 Joseph Madrid said the burglary was discovered by George de Guzman, an X-ray technician. Biomedics officer-in-charge Melinda Dalisay said it was very likely an inside job because the burglars had the key to the rooms where the equipment was stored. ***DJ Yap***

Still missing

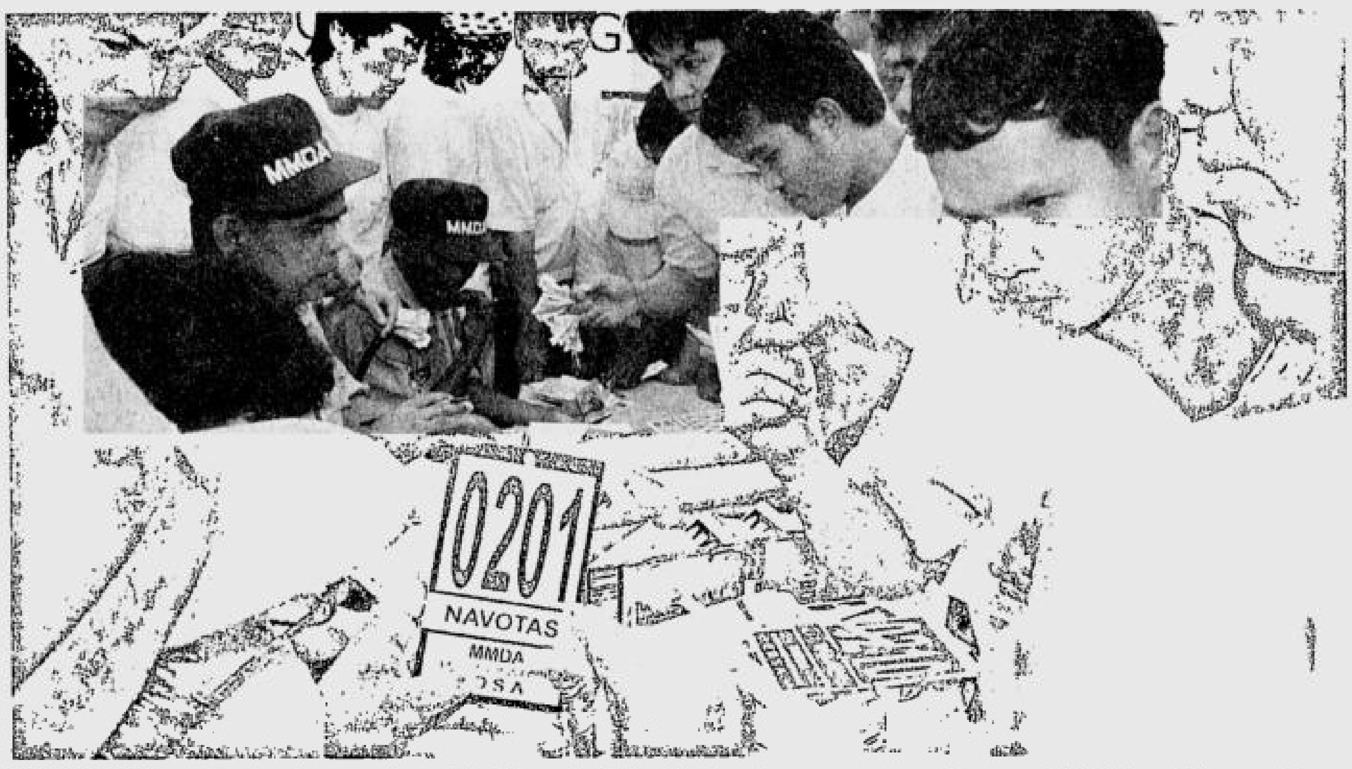
RESCUERS are still looking for Mark Anthony Bernardino, 11, after he was believed to have drowned in a Mandaluyong creek following heavy rains that flooded the city Sunday. The body of his friend, John Ray Manatad, 10, was found earlier near the Arroceros Pumping Station in Manila. Survivor Adrian Taghoy, 9, said Manatad and Bernardino had asked him to join them on a piece of styrofoam floating on the Maytunas creek near Acacia Lane at the height of the downpour. The boys were supposed to haul plastic materials thrown in the creek that they could sell later, but Taghoy refused. When he saw the waters rising fast, he tried to reach out for his friends, but they had gone under. A man heard Taghoy cry for help and got him out of the creek. ***Edson C. Tandoc Jr.***

Euro tilt open to writers

THE DELEGATION of the European Commission to the Philippines is inviting journalists from print and online media reporting on human rights to join the Natali Prize for Journalism contest. Nominees will be special guests of the European Commission in Brussels in January 2006. Each prize winner will receive a trophy and €5,000 for the first placer; €2,500, second prize; and €1,500, third prize. Applicants must submit one article or an extract of a series of articles on human rights and/or democracy in the developing world, in one of the 20 official languages of the European Union, along with a summary in English, French or Spanish. Each entry must come with an entry form, available at the Lorenzo Natali Prize website: http://www.nataliprize.info. The deadline for submission of articles is Oct. 31.

IBA TALAGA ANG PINOY!

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES



THE FIRST day of the implementation of the Organized Bus Route scheme was marred by complaints from drivers and bus conductors who appeared confused about the new rules. REM ZAMORA

New bus scheme gets mixed reviews

By Tarra V. Quismundo, Jocelyn R. Uy and Nancy C. Carvajal

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVElopment Authority (MMDA) controlled bus dispatch system had a shaky but manageable relaunch yesterday.

The MMDA's Organized Bus Route (OBR) system, aimed at reducing traffic volume on Edsa by limiting bus trips based on commuter volume at a given time, began at 6 a.m.

"There was a little confusion because even our own men had to make adjustments. But we were able to manage though there are still many factors that tend to disrupt its implementation," MMDA chair Bayani Fernando said.

First tested in December 2003, the OBR supposedly would reduce traffic on Edsa and boost incomes of bus operators and drivers. Buses would not have to make runs with almost no passenger but would instead be filled to near or at least 70 percent capacity.

"We think it would take around two weeks before the situation normalizes," Fernando added.

Buses were issued tamper-proof nontransferable cards. Only tagged buses would be issued numbered dispatch queue cards so they would know when they could leave the terminal.

Yesterday, queuing proved problematic in some OBR terminals, as some buses wanted to be first in line, Fernando said. This was particularly true in Baclaran, endpoint for some 1,400 buses from about 15 northern destinations, including Monumento, Navotas, Valenzuela, and parts of Baclaran.

"We used the service road so there was only one lane for the buses to line up, unlike in our other terminals where the buses are inside a compound," said MMDA Traffic Operations Center (TOC) executive director Angelito Vergel de Dios. The MMDA also has OBR terminals in Navotas, Fairview, Alabang and FTI (Food Terminal Inc.), and seven control points where queue cards would be issued and collected.

MMDA Metropolitan Road Rules Enforcement System (MRRES) head Mon Santiago, who supervised the Baclaran operations, said the agency was shorthanded.

Some 28 buses that plied their routes with neither tags nor queue cards were impounded. Fernando said buses should not ply their routes without tags.

In Baclaran, the first-on first-off policy was ignored. Bus conductors claimed queue cards even when their buses were at the back of the line. Bus drivers and conductors complained that the new scheme irked some passengers.

Rommel Gayas, a driver plying the Baclaran-Malanday route, told the INQUIRER that on a normal day, they made two rounds on their route. But by noon yesterday, they had not even started on their first.

Bus drivers and conductors at the Navotas terminal also complained about the OBR implementation.

"We waited for at least 30 minutes before we could get a Q-card," said Roberto Tolosa.

He said that they were not against the OBR, but hoped the MMDA would come up with a better system in distributing queue cards.

A conductor of an air-conditioned bus said their day's earnings were drastically cut by 50 percent because they missed the peak hours.

NBI files raps vs former PAIRTF chief

Margaux C. Ortiz

THE HEAD OF THE DEFUNCT PRESIdential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force (PAIRTF) is facing charges for allegedly hiring intelligence officers, who were arrested in an entrapment operation last week, without any authority.

Officials of the National Bureau of Investigation said Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) Director and former PAIRTF chief Reynaldo Jaylo had no authority to appoint intelligence officers.

"Only law enforcers from government agencies such as the NBI or Philippine National Police (PNP) should have been assigned to the task force," NBI Intelligence Special Operations Division (ISOD) chief Allan Contado said.

The NBI filed usurpation of authority charges against Jaylo and qualified bribery and illegal possession of firearms against four policemen and seven intelligence officers arrested in an entrapment operation conducted by agents of the NBI's ISOD and Special Task Force headed by Regional Director Reynaldo Esmeralda last week.

National Anti-Crime Task Force chief Angelo Reyes Jr. presented in a press conference SPO2 Santiago Sy and PO3 Francisco Quito of the Traffic Management Group and SPO1 Romeo Noriega and PO2 Dexter Ramile of the Manila Police District for their alleged involvement in extortion.

The intelligence officers were identified as Rolando Arce, Mercy Grace Gamores, Allan Tubil, Ruel Lontoc, Nelson Ferrer, Ricardo Duque and Christopher Lucero.

"They extorted P200,000 to P1.3 million, and said they would wipe out our families if we did not cooperate," said Gerry Fernando, the complainant. Couple Jerome and Maryjane France were reportedly asked for P200,000 for their freedom.

Jaylo told reporters earlier that Fernando was "a suspected illegal recruiter who only wanted to destroy our credibility."

Water blasting of rally indefensible

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I'M A STAUNCH SUPPORTER AND defender of the Arroyo administration, but the "baptism" by water cannon of participants of a prayer rally Friday is indefensible.

Policemen, who were following GMA's calibrated preemptive response, didn't take into account the personalities involved in it and the fact that the rally was peaceful and orderly. It was a prayer rally and there was not a single anti-GMA placardin the card.

Due respect should have been given to former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Sen. Jamby Madrigal and Rep. Satur Ocampo, and the bishops, priests and nuns who were at the forefront of the march.

If the cops ignored the 77-year-old Guingona's former exalted position, at least they should have respected his advanced age.

In the same manner, the elderly bishops should also have been given due respect, even if they had gone beyond bounds by using their religion to hit the government.

Until last Friday, many people dismissed Senator Madrigal and Congressman Ocampo as necessary nuisances in the opposition camp. But the two have become instant martyrs to their cause, no matter their motives, after the drenching.

I was a police reporter during the time of the unlamented Marcos regime. I covered many rallies, both peaceful and violent.

Marcos' military and police forces never made the mistake of dispersing prayer rallies. Their patience knew no bounds when demonstrations were participated in by well-known opposition figures.

For all his faults, Marcos respected religion.

The President would do well to apologize to the citizenry for last Friday's incident. She should also relieve the commanders of both the Manila Police District and the National Capital Region Office (NCRPO).

In the aftermath of the Mendiola massacre in the early years of the Cory Aquino administration, Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano was relieved as chief of the Capital Region Command (Capcom) and Brig. Gen. Narciso Cabrera was replaced as chief of the Western Police District by Gen. Alfredo Lim.

If GMA doesn't apologize, she will be confirming the perception that her administration is arrogant and overbearing.

* * *

The Filipino's crab mentality—pulling down people on their way up so they could not rise above those envious of their lucky break—is once again shown when some agencies are closing ranks against the Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force.

It seems the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration are helping illegal recruiters and women traffickers by hitting the task force headed by Rey Jaylo.

The NBI and POEA seem to protect illegal recruiting and trafficking of women by encouraging an alleged notorious recruiter, to file cases against Jaylo's men.

Jaylo's men tried to arrest the complainant, upon the complaint of victims referred to them by a broadcast journalist, when they were pounced upon by the NBI and policemen detailed at the POEA. Jaylo's men are now detained at the NBI jail.

POEA Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz reportedly looks with disfavor at the arrest of 500 illegal recruiters made by AIRTF.

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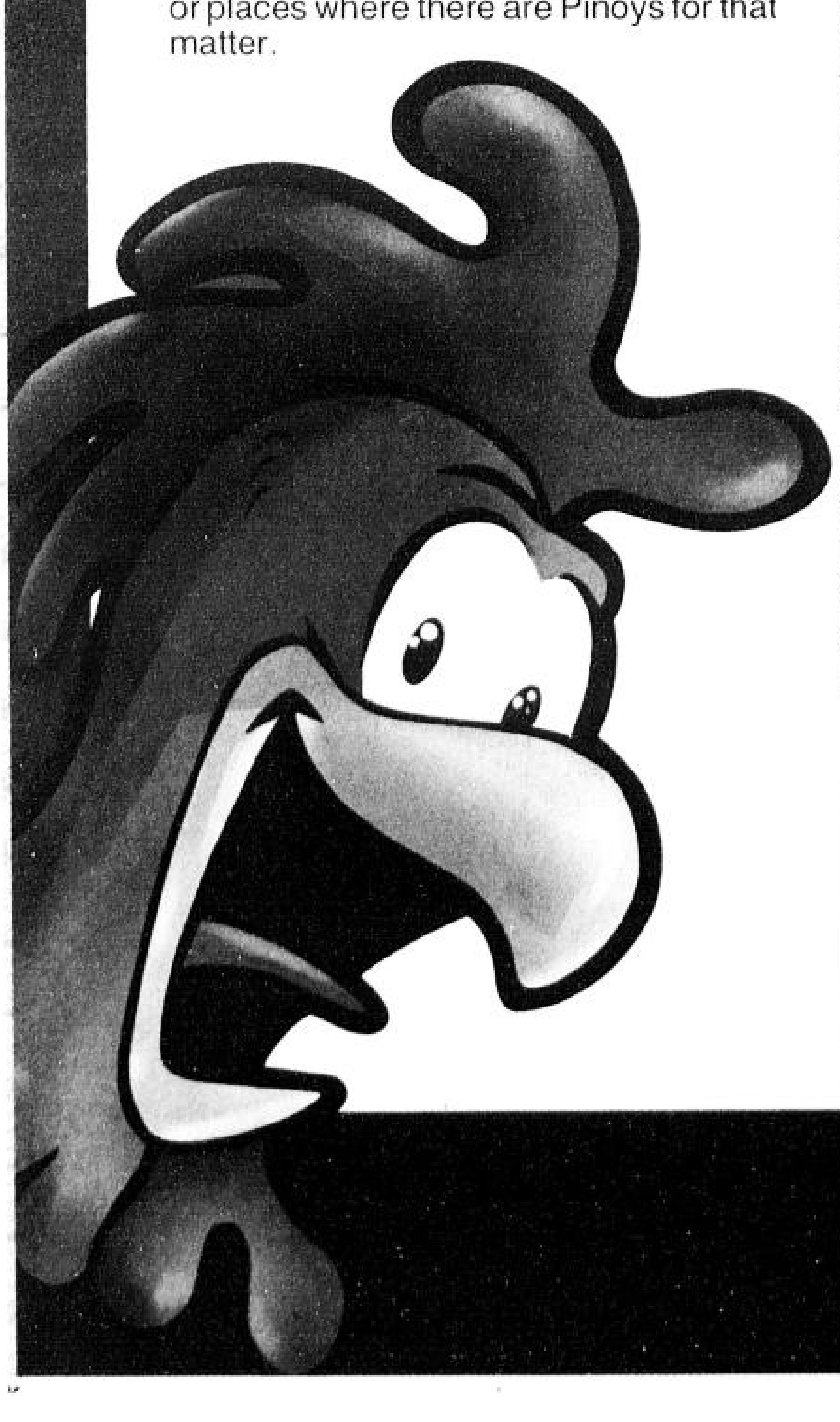
sino si MAX?

Sino nga ba?

These days, the 60-million peso question is: Sino si Max? Is he the chef that cooked the first fried chicken? Or the monicker of the first chicken served in the restaurant? So simple a query yet there is not only three but endless, possible answers.

Maybe it would help if we look back 60 years ago when the first Max's restaurant was hatched. During that time Americans flocked to a small cafe managed by Stanford-educated Maximo Gimenez in Scout Tuazon in Quezon City where they enjoyed ribs and steaks his niece Ruby Trota prepared. The G.I.s' fell in love with Ruby's cooking and that's when she concocted the now famous fried chicken.

After more than half a century of food service, Max's has evolved from a small cafe into a household name. With a 107-branch network in the country, it has become synonymous for excellent food and great service - from up North in Tuguegarao to down South in Cagayan de Oro you will find a Max's restaurant, or places where there are Pinoys for that matter.



This month , Max's says *Aloha* to our *kababayans* in Hawaii, its *fifth* branch in the U.S.

Pero sino nga ba si Max?

There is more to it than his story. In fact there is a little Max story in each of us. You can say, "I am Max!" if you believe in sharing good times and great food with family and friends. You are "Max" when you take pride in Filipino values that have made us unique as a people. And most of all, you are "Max" if you don't stop at being the best that you can become. Max's 60-year campaign is not merely an exercise in breast-beating. It is a reminder of what we are and all our aspirations.

Like any other organizations, Max's is loyal to a buiness dictum of R.O.I. - Respect, Oneness and Integrity, which propels its employees to deliver their best performance. And it's reflected not only in the way they serve customers but also in the manner they challenge themselves to exceed their customers' expectations. It's in their nature. At Max's, respect doesn't only mean reverence to age but in the recognition of basic differences in ideas. That at the end of the day, employees rally behind one paradigm: Max's is theirs and the customers'. Their associates, suppliers and franchisees couldn't be prouder having forged an unflinching dedication to Max's excellence. It's a time-honored commitment, one that withstood the challenge of changing customer demands and tougher competition.

So who is Max? One need not look far. All these hard work and achievement that the restaurant has gained over the years is borne out of its customers' undying loyalty. Max's would not have made it so intricately seamless if not to reward them for their patronage.

The occasions spent in the restaurant would not have been memorable if not for the smiles that flashed in the faces of their customers. They are the reason that Max's charms the heart. And as long as each one of us finds a reason to celebrate a Filipino success like Max's, there is a Max in all of us.

Okay now so much for the *really* serious stuff. SINO NGA SI MAX?

If you're one of those who spent sleepless nights bugging others through phone calls or text trying to find the answer to the 2-Million peso contest. Watch "Maalaala Mo Kaya" on November 17 and find out who Max really is. And maybe, with some luck you will be the next millionaire!

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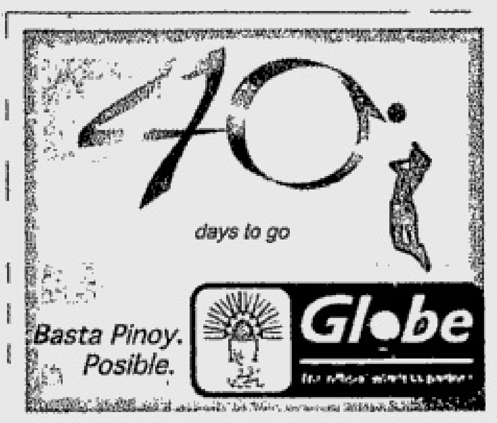


Outfitter for RP bets wanted

THE UNIFORM DESIGN FOR THE 900-strong Philippine team for the coming 23rd SEA Games has yet to be finalized just 30 days before the biennial meet gets going. There are also 31 sports without an official sponsor after Accel, the thriving apparel and athletic shoe company, agreed to shoulder only the uniforms of athletes in 10 events.

* * *

FILA-AM tennis recruit Riza Zalameda will plane in from the US before the end of the month to sharpen up for the coming Games. The 18-year-old US NCAA division I standout has committed to play for the Philippines in the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 meet where tennis will stake a total of seven gold medals. *Musong R. Castillo*

Franz, Salgado give side on La Salle cage inquiry

By Jasmine W. Payo

A DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE FORMED to investigate the controversy surrounding the Green Archer who allegedly submitted false eligibility documents yesterday called team officials led by coach Franz Pumaren and assistant team manager Manny Salgado to shed light on the case.

"The investigation is ongoing and we're trying to speed it up and make sure that it's exhaustive," said Lito Tanjuatco, a member of the four-man panel investigating the case brought into the open by DLSU itself.

"We're just asking for a little more patience," added Tanjuatco. "We're trying to finish it as soon as possible. We'll be coming up with an official report soon."

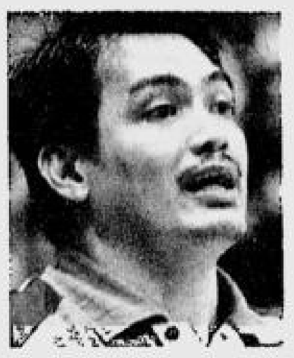
Mark Benitez—the 6-foot-5 center identified in various published reports as the cager who allegedly submitted fake high school records to gain eligibility to the school and to the team—is expected to air his side "within the week."

"We'll also be calling people for interviews," said Tanjuatco, a member of La Salle's board of trustees and board of regents. "But we really can't go into details."

Mark's father, Mesh Benitez, recently denied the school's claim that his son had been invited twice for questioning.

The elder Benitez said his son hasn't received a "formal invitation," but his family is "willing to come out in the open."

La Salle executive vice president Dr. Carmelita Quebengco formed a committee composed of a legal counsel and a representative each from the UAAP board, the University Registrar and the Office of Sports Development to resolve the case.


PUMAREN

BENITEZ

SALGADO

But she recently noted that the investigation hasn't prospered since the panel is still waiting for Benitez "to show up."

Quebengco also said that other people likely to be called for questioning "include those who received the documents from the admission's office."

Last week, La Salle said the Archers were willing to forfeit their 2004 UAAP men's basketball crown after learning that it had unknowingly fielded an ineligible player in the last three years.

Officials said the Philippine Educational Placement Test Certificate of Rating submitted by the player "was not genuine, thus rendering him ineligible."

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Asian Ladies tees off at John Hay

BAGUIO CITY—SIXTEEN TEAMS LED by defending champion Manila Southwoods dispute the three division titles at stake in the 3rd Asian Ladies Team championships firing off at the Camp John Hay Golf Club here today.

Manila Southwoods is heavily favored to retain the crown it won in runaway fashion last year in the 54-hole tourney backed by Smart Communications as the presentor and CJH Golf Club, CJH Development Corp., CJH Manor Hotel and Le Chef as sponsors.

Leading the assault for Southwoods in the four-to-play, three-to-count event are former national player Carmelette Villaroman and club champion Beachie Abiera. Notably absent is Tracy Locsin, who won the individual title last year.

Also in the field are two teams each from Camp John Hay, Villamor, Riviera and Forest Hills, Brewyard, Philippine Navy, Phoenix, Royal Northwoods, Valley, Wack Wack and Baguio Country Club.

Wack Wack looms as the biggest threat to Southwoods' repeat bid with a lineup composed of Liza Lopez, Stephanie Yu, Bing Liboro and Vicky Farrales. Riviera is also a team to watch with jungolf standout Cyna Rodriguez and Beth Menchavez at the helm.

Format is Modified Stableford or Molave point system with a double eagle worth 7 points, 6 for hole-in-one, 5 for eagle, 4 for birdie, 3 for par, 2 for bogey and a point for a double bogey.

It's a big week for golf at John Hay as the Ateneo-La Salle Match Play will be held on Oct. 21-23 immediately after the Asian ladies on Thursday.

There will be a welcome cocktails at the Manor Garden at 5:30 p.m..

EAC, Lyceum squads put away WNCAA senior championships

HOST EMILIO AGUINALDO COLLEGE-MANILA and Lyceum of the Philippines bagged the WNCAA 36th season senior volleyball titles over the weekend at the SSC gym, even as San Beda College-Alabang and Miriam College won Game 1 of their respective title series

EAC beat Miriam Saturday, 31-29, 25-15, 22-25, 16-25, 15-11, and scored the clincher the next day, 24-26, 25-23, 25-22, 24-26, 15-12 to take home the senior B trophy.

Miriam took Game 1 last Oct. 9, 25-18, 25-14, 25-14.

Lyceum, which gained a twice-to-beat incentive after sweeping all its 10 games in the eliminations, beat Rizal Technological University on Saturday, 25-17, 25-20, 25-21, for the senior A crown.

It was the Lady Pirates' fourth straight title.

SBCA leads the midget best-of-three series over La Salle College-Antipolo, 1-0, after posting a 25-13, 25-11 win.

Miriam likewise paces the junior level finals against St. Scholastica's College, which it defeated in straight sets, 25-22, 25-22, 25-19.

'Reinstate BAP briefly, save SEAG caging'

By June Navarro

REINSTATE THE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION of the Philippines temporarily to save basketball in the coming Southeast Asian Games.

This, according to BAP president Joey Lina, is the "easiest solution" to the current cage crisis, although he admitted that this is easier said than done with the Philippine Olympic Committee bent on keeping the BAP out of the local Olympic body.

"This could facilitate the lifting of the Fiba suspension, but sadly, the POC continues to stand pat on its decision," Lina told the INQUIRER during the Air21-Red Bull Barako game in the PBA Sunday night.

If the BAP expulsion is set aside, Lina said, the international basketball federation (Fiba) would lift its suspension on the Philippines to pave the way for the country's participation in the SEAG which the country will host from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

Another way out, he said, is for the Fiba to directly pardon the country, even if the POC has not reinstated the BAP.

The POC had already requested the Fiba to decide whether the country would be allowed to see action in the SEAG. In turn, the Fiba said its secretary general, Patrick Baumann, would decide on the matter only after Oct. 24.

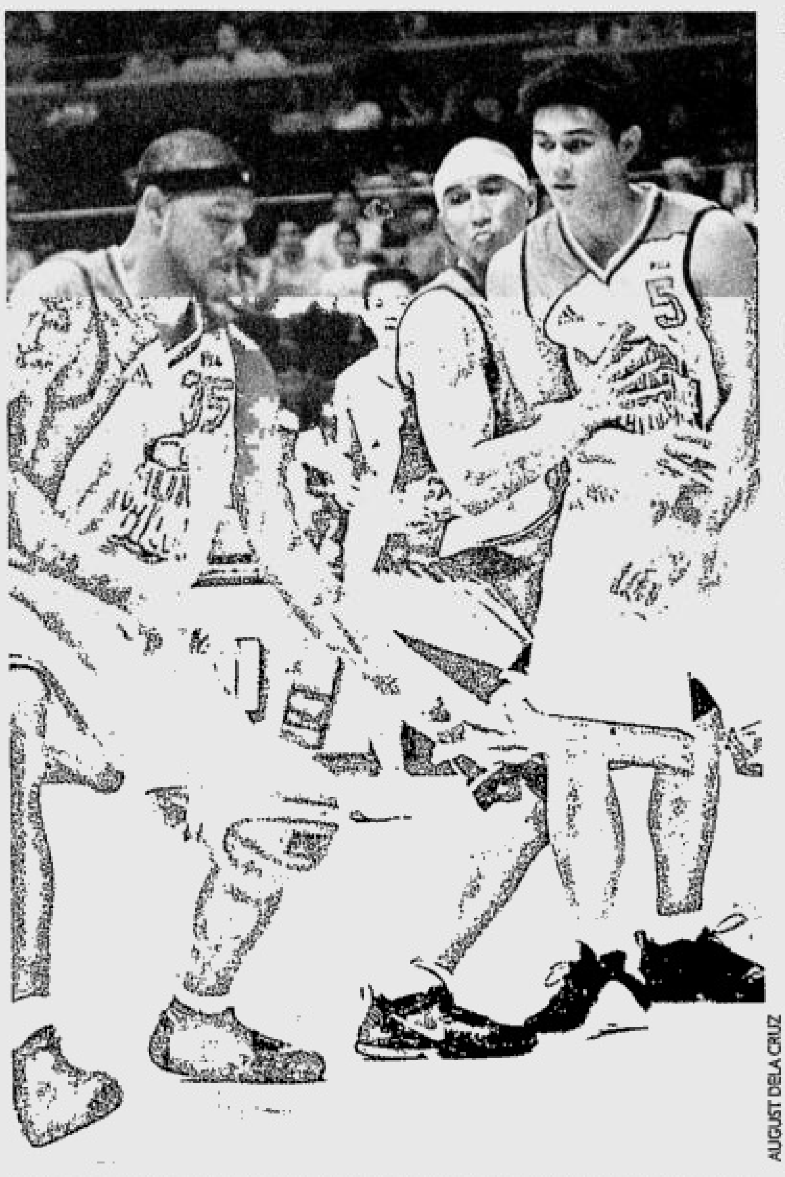
LINA: Easiest solution

"There are 84 million Filipinos, most of them basketball fans who are looking forward to watching our basketball players see action in the SEA Games," said Lina. "It will be a big disappointment if there's no basketball in the SEAG."

Lina said the absence of the event in the regional meet would alienate people from the basketball leadership, making it difficult, in the long run, to get support for basketball programs.

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco said only the general assembly could recall the expulsion. He has vowed to step down from his post if the BAP is reinstated.

Lina said the Fiba continues to recognize the BAP.


AUGUST DELA CRUZ

PUREFOODS' Marquin Chandler tries to recover the loose ball as SMB's Nic Belasco screens off Jondan Salvador (5). The Giants won, 92-90.

₱1.8M budget for staging beach volley

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THIRTY DUMPTRUCKS OF WHITE SAND, THREE courts, two gold medals and P1.8 million.

These are the figures required for the staging of the beach volleyball event of the Southeast Asian Games in Bacolod City next month.

Philippine Amateur Volleyball Association (Pava) president Roger Banzuela yesterday said about 500 metric tons of white sand from the coastal towns of Sipalay and Cauayan will be needed for the three courts that will be set up at the University of St. La Salle football field.

Two warm-up courts and one competition court will also be built in front of the school's grandstand.

"We estimated the cost to reach P1.8 million, with the hauling (of sand) eating up much of the amount," said Banzuela. "We are actually thinking of renting a barge to haul the sand because trucks can only make two trips a day."

The towns from where the white sand will come are about a three-hour drive from the SEAG site.

In all, the Bacolod organizers said they have already saved P4 million because they will not be spending for the construction of the bleachers, which will be provided by the Bacolod Arts and Youth Center for the SEAG competitions.

"At first, we thought of bringing over the whites sands of Boracay, but that would cost us more because Boracay is far from here compared to the two towns," said Banzuela.

Confession not enough

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE GOOD THING ABOUT THE PLAYER INeligibility case presently hounding De La Salle is it was brought into the open by the school itself. Had it not been done that way, the school would have been the object of a never-ending dose of snide remarks for keeping a dark secret that is anyway known already by everybody except De La Salle.

The bad thing about it is it is not being resolved with finality. Up until now, everything's up in the air when it should have ended the day De La Salle detonated the bomb.

Look, the initial disclosure was a player was found ineligible to play in 2004.

That should have been it.

I mean, it should have ended there: Revelation and resolution.

You reveal a horrible crime, you resolve it right there and then.

You admit to a crime, go get yourself handcuffed and next suffer the consequences.

But no.

De La Salle defeated its honorable confession with dishonorable moves that somehow buried the school deeper into a rut.

First, it said it was not revealing the name of the ineligible player for legal reasons. That's a cowardly act, to say the least.

You say something and next withhold something from your own information, better not to have said anything at all. A half-baked move could only muddle up the situation.

What the law says is you don't disclose a name if the person involved is a minor.

Was Mark Benitez a minor when he allegedly faked his documents to gain entry into the De La Salle senior basketball team?

You are 18, you aren't a minor anymore.

Maybe, Mark Benitez was a minor when the crime was committed, the reason De La Salle had withheld his name when it dropped the bomb that shook Philippine sports?

I'm sure Mark Benitez didn't do it alone. Several more had been involved—again the reason De La Salle had initially refused to reveal the player's name and had first wanted to pin all the culprits down before disclosing the identities of all the persons involved?

Whatever, I believe Mark Benitez must be 18 now or even older so that De La Salle would have been justified if it had named him outright as the culprit. That way, all of Mark's fellow Green Archers are freed of suspicion.

To repeat, the revelation was very clear: a De La Salle player was found by De La Salle as ineligible to play in 2004, the year the Green Archers won the UAAP crown.

Mark Benitez may not have been solely responsible for it, but at least, naming him as the chief beneficiary of the illegal act is easily justifiable in any court of law. Even his immediate banishment from the school would have been justified, too.

The second thing about the half-baked nature (*mestizo* they call it in *canto* parlance) of the De La Salle case is the school authorities' decision "to offer to return" the UAAP championship trophy it won in 2004.

There is no wiser thing to do when De La Salle admitted having fielded an ineligible player than to immediately return the trophy because that trophy does not rightfully belong to the school.

Confess and return. And then issue a public apology.

There's nothing more honorable than that.

Any investigation that will ensue is but gravy.

* * *

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SPORTSWATCH

MY Games lures foreign youth athletes

THE FIRST MANILA YOUTH GAMES (MY GAMES) NATIONAL INVITATIONAL INvitational has gained international flavor with the entry of foreign athletes in the first-ever multi-sport youth gathering initiated by a local government unit. Arnold "Ali" Atienza, chair of the organizing Manila Sports Council (Masco), announced that athletes from the United States, including Hawaii; Canada, and Britain have signed up for the event slated Oct. 23-30 in various sports venues in the Big City. "We are very proud that this national sports endeavor has attracted international interest, although the MY Games is primarily for local youth athletes. We see this foreign participation as a welcome development, so we have decided to set an international guest division for these foreign participants," said the son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. The best athletes aged 17 and under from more than 40 major cities, municipalities and provinces throughout the country will see action in the event backed by Pagcor, San Miguel Corp., Milo, Red Bull, Philippine Airlines, Super Ferry, Land Bank, Unilever, Speedo, IntraSports and Concept Movers.

Support pours for Subic Nat'l Marathon

DOCTOR J. RUBBING ALCOHOL HAS THROWN ITS SUPPORT TO THE PHILIPpine National Police-organized 1st Subic National Marathon slated Oct. 23 inside the Subic Bay Freeport. "We believe in the advocacy campaign of the PNP toward developing a God-centered, service-oriented and family-based PNP, and they deserve all the support they can get," said company president Aton Atilano. The event, expected to draw thousands of fun and competitive runners from all over Luzon, was launched recently at a press conference in Camp Crame graced by PNP chief Director General Arturo Lomibao and Chief Supt. Sam Tucay, officer-in-charge of the PNP Values and Leadership School, and the prime mover of the event. Doctor J. Rubbing Alcohol formed a basketball team coached by Leo Isaac in the mid-90s and won the PBL title in 1998 at the expense of Tanduay.

Laguna's Royo dominates GCAP stagfest

PEBR MAKISIG, A LONGSHOT ENTRY OF LAGUNA GAMEFOWL BREEDER BOY Royo, trounced the favored bets to rule the fifth leg of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-stag derby last week at San Juan Coliseum. PEBR Makisig posted four wins and a draw to top the 28-entry strong event. Action resumes at the same venue tomorrow with the GCAP Extra 5-Stag Derby that will banner 65 fights with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Submission of entries is scheduled today from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Participants may call the SJC office at 725-5665, 725-5369 or 727-7086 and look for Ariel. The venue's management is also gearing up for the Big Event 8-Stag Derby on Oct. 26 and 29.

Makati Coliseum hosts NCA 7-stag tilt

TOPNOTCH COCKERS AND BREEDERS CLASH ANEW FROM 7 P.M. TODAY IN the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-stag derby at the Makati Coliseum. More than 50 fights are scheduled, according to derby hosts Patrick Antonio, Benjie Lim, Biboy Enriquez and Pol Estrellado. The team of congressmen Butch Pichay, Jing Paras, Boy de Roca and Ric de Guzman topped the third NCA derby last Oct. 4 and 6 after their entry Kampi ni Butch posted a perfect score of seven points. The team is expected to unleash anew tonight its prized Bacolod fighters. Ready to challenge them are the entries of noted Rizal breeder Boy Jiao, Gov. Ito Ynares, Jun Santiago, Beng Calivoso, Sam Mendoza, Ruel Ricafort, Lito Orillaza, William Co, Representatives Gerry "Boy" Espina, Ronnie Puno, Jing Paras and popular cockfighter Patrick Antonio.

LGBA derby finals at Big Dome today

MORE THAN 130 FIGHTS ARE ON TAP WHEN THE FINALS OF THE LUZON gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 7-stag derby kicks off starting at 11 a.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum. Among the frontrunners with three wins each are Wally Tuanqui of Rizal, Dalwin Yulangco and Allan Cong of Bulacan, Mayor Cito Alberto of Catanduanes, Cesar Bada of Zambales and Marcel Julao of Batangas. Bicol's Alex Tang and Rizal's Jun Santos lead the LGBA Breeder of the Year series with 8.5 points each. Meanwhile, the eliminations for the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB) Bakbakan National 9-stag derby sizzles on Thursday at the same venue. For inquiries, call 926-7808, 924-5072 or 0920-5851940.

Vergara captures Compak sporting clays shoot crown

HILLTOP, TAYTAY, RIZAL—Former national skeet shooter and Kuwait national team coach Jun Vergara of Team Pampanga's Best shot 162 clay birds to rule the just-concluded three-day 1st Philippine National Compak Sporting Clays Championship at the Team Goma shooting range here.

Vergara beat Darius Hizon, Nonoy Bernardo, actor/TV host and Southeast Asian Games fencing gold medalist Richard Gomez and Gabby Tong in Sunday's finals of the 150-clay bird shootfest.

Hizon finished with 185, Bernardo carded 155, Gomez had 154 and Tong scored 151.

With his win, Vergara was proclaimed the first "national champion" of the country's biggest shotgun competition.

Hizon topped Class A, while Atlanta Olympian George Earnshaw and Carlo Garcia ruled classes B and C, respectively.

Gomez, who is also president of the Sporting Clays Association of the Philippines, emerged 20-gauge champion, Irine Garcia topped the ladies' division and Nestor de Castro bagged the veteran's class crown.

SCAP chair Mayor Joric Gacula said the event supported by Bench, Human, GMA-7, Rustan's Essences, Swatch, Rudy Project, CD Iced Tea, The Spa, Caterpillar Shoes, Leonardo Bags, Mainland Cheese, Krispy Krepe, Mobile 1, Ipod, Chikka.com and Bidshot was a big success.

Gomez said: "Here, Filipinos can truly excel because the sport does not demand height nor remarkable physical strength."

FIRST NATIONAL CHAMP: Jun Vergara lifts his prize.

Yakult 10-Miler dangles more than ₱180,000

THE PHILIPPINE MARATHON SEASON IS NOT yet over.

After the 29th Milo Marathon two weeks ago and the Adidas King of the Road last week comes another big running event—the annual Yakult 10-Miler now on its 17th edition.

The second longest running marathon event in the country will be fired off on Nov. 6 at the Cultural Center Complex grounds with more than P180,000 worth of prizes at stake.

Eduardo Buenavista and Mercedita Manipol topped last year's race, but they are doubtful starters since both are training for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games set here next month.

This could give the more than 2,500 runners vying in the event a chance to steal the limelight and bring home the P7,000 top purse.

"Yakult Phils. has been supporting the sports of running since 1983, holding 10K running circuits monthly," said Albert Dy Sun, president of the organizing Yakult Phils. Inc.

Aside from the centerpiece 10-mile (16K) event, Yakult will also hand trophies and medals to the winners in the 5K and 3K side events.

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Race 6—1. Friendly Venture 2. Words of Joy 3. Classic Royale 4. Mercurian

Race 7—1. Guts 2. Decidido 3. Ahead of Time 4. Island Lord 5. Fashion Victim

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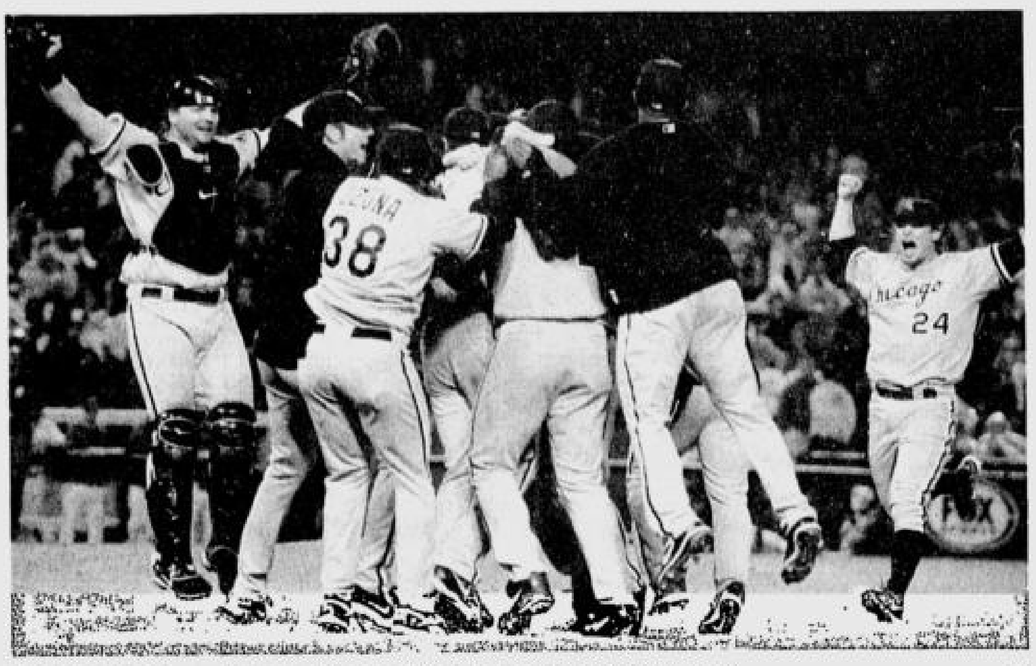

THE WHITE Sox celebrate after beating the Angels, 6-3, in Game 5. AP

White Sox head to World Series

Down Angels for AL pennant

ANAHEIM, CALIF.—JOE CREDE BROKE A 3-3 tie with a two-out infield single in the eighth inning on Sunday to send the Chicago White Sox to their first World Series since 1959, with a 6-3 victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

With the Game Five victory, Chicago grabbed the team's first American League pennant in 46 years with a 4-1 victory in the best-of-seven league championship series and earned the chance to play for their first world title since 1917.

They will host the opening game of the World Series on Saturday against the winner of the National League Championship Series between the Houston Astros and the St. Louis Cardinals.

The Astros lead that best-of-seven series 3-1.

The White Sox, who dropped the first game of the series before roaring back to win four straight, three of them on the road, celebrated on the field in Anaheim.

They were cheered on by about 1,000 die-hard fans who shrugged off a steady rain to support a team that has not brought home a championship in almost 90 years.

"Understand that a lot of people, generations, have come and gone and not seen their team win the World Series," White Sox general manager Ken Williams said in a champagne-soaked clubhouse.

"It's got to be great back there in Chicago. I'm happy for all of them."

Crede tied the game in the seventh inning on a solo home run, then drove in the game winner after Angels reliever Kelvim Escobar failed to make the final out at first base on a soft grounder by A.J. Pierzynski.

Though the Angels—who had already run off the field, believing that they had ended the inning—argued the call with umpires, television replays clearly showed Escobar tagging Pierzynski with his glove while holding the ball in his bare right hand.

Crede came up with two outs and slapped a grounder up the middle that Los Angeles second baseman Adam Kennedy attempted to stop.

But Kennedy's throw to the plate was too late to get the streaking Aaron Rowand, who scored from second. *Reuters*

Astros victory shy of NL title

HOUSTON, TEXAS—THE ASTROS edged the Cardinals, 2-1, here Sunday to move within one game of reaching the World Series for the first time.

Starter Brandon Backe combined with four relievers on a five-hitter as the Astros took a commanding three-games-to-one lead in the best-of-seven National League Championship Series.

Morgan Ensberg plated the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in the seventh inning for Houston, whose three ace pitchers are scheduled to start the next three games.

Andy Pettitte will get the call Monday for game five against the Cardinals' Chris Carpenter.

If the Cardinals send the series back to St. Louis for games six and seven, Houston has 20-game winner Roy Oswalt and seven-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens on the hill.

"For us, it's the best one out of three right now," Astros manager Phil Garner said. "It doesn't get any easier. We're in good position in terms of our pitching, our players and everything." *AFP*

Maccabi subdues Raptors

TORONTO—THE Raptors became the first NBA team to lose to Maccabi Tel Aviv in 27 years when Anthony Parker's jumper with 0.8 seconds left lifted the Israeli club over Toronto, 105-103, on Sunday.

Parker, who played in the NBA for Philadelphia and Orlando, had 24 points. Croatia's Nikola Vujcic added 21 points and 10 rebounds for Maccabi, the Euroleague champion.

Chris Bosh had 27 points and 12 rebounds in 45 minutes, and Jalen Rose had 18 points in 41 minutes for Toronto.

Maccabi hadn't beaten an NBA team since 1978 when they knocked off the then-champion Washington Bullets. They had lost nine straight before holding off the Raptors, who played their starters most of the way.

Maccabi's Yaniv Green blocked Rose's layup attempt and Mike James' jumper before Will Solomon gave Tel Aviv a 95-93 lead with a 3-pointer — their first lead since the first quarter. *AP*

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Sorenstam posts record fifth win; Wie disqualified

PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA—MICHELLE Wie was sensationally disqualified on her professional debut on Sunday, overshadowing a brilliant display by Annika Sorenstam, who eased to a record fifth victory in the Women's World Championship.

Sorenstam dominated the event from the opening day and the Swede, who led by four strokes overnight, eased to an eight-shot triumph with a final round three-under-par 69 for a 270 total, on a day that included over three hours of weather delays.

Wie had slumped to a final-round 74 that was still good enough for a creditable fourth-place finish, but a drop violation in her third round on Saturday was highlighted to officials and the 16-year-old Hawaiian was subsequently disqualified.

American Paula Creamer fired a final round 70 to finish alone in second place, a stroke clear of South Korean Gloria Park who slumped to a 74.

It was also the first time that Sorenstam had won the same tournament five times—equaling an LPGA record set by Mickey Wright in the Sea Island Open between 1957 and 1963—and the $212,500 saw her clinch both her eighth LPGA money list title ($2,205,104) and a record eighth Player of the Year title. *Reuters*

This time, Wes is far from short

NEW YORK—AMERICAN JOURNEYMAN Wes Short Jr. hit the jackpot at the Las Vegas Championship on Sunday, beating three-time winner Jim Furyk at the second playoff hole to claim his first career title.

Short, who started the week 176th on the money list and battling to finish in the top 125 to secure his card for next season, scooped a first prize of $720,000 and a two-year PGA Tour exemption.

It was truly a Cinderella week for the 41-year-old Short, who only gained entry to the $4 million event following Arron Oberholser's withdrawal.

"I can't talk, I don't have to go to tour school now, I'm so happy," Short said.

"I finished really well, with an eagle and two clutch putts." *Reuters*

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Bublé's heart, Maryo J's hug . . .

From page A24

ain? Wasn't her ex-husband (**Jomari Yllana**) snatched from her many controversies ago? It's so un-Aiko to take what isn't rightfully hers.

Outstanding cooking show

"ISLAND Flavors" won the Most Outstanding Television Magazine Cooking Show during the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards held at the Westin Philippine Plaza on Oct. 4. I happen to be a follower of the program.

Shown Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on ABC-5, "Island Flavors" features delightful dishes prepared amid beautiful Philippine landscapes and sceneries. It's a great way to spend a lazy Sunday afternoon—learning about good food and exciting travel destinations. Viewers are hooked on this travel and cooking show.

Credit, of course, goes to the producer, Scribble Works, which has brought you shows like "Men's Room," "Tahanang Pinoy" and "Lock and Load." Scribble Works also doubles as an events company, which packages projects, from conceptualization up to execution. You many get in touch with them at scribbleworks@skyinet.net.

For feedback, e-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@citykartracing.com

DID YOU KNOW...

TV host **Paolo Bediones** was very much interested in playing a call boy in "Bilog/Circle," according to the digital film's director Cris Pablo. "Unfortunately, we had to start shooting right away and couldn't wait for GMA 7 News and Public Affairs to give him permission," Pablo said. **Reiven Bulado**, last seen in "Panaghoy sa Suba," got the part.

New shows on ABC-5

From page A26

is sung by Marri as a duet with **Juan Rodrigo.**

Some cuts in the album: "Gaano," composed for Marri by **George Canseco**, "I Didn't Mean to Hurt You" by **Eric Narvaez** and Air Supply's **"Making Love Out of Nothing at All."**

Mari sings on Oct. 22 at Ever Commonwealth and Oct. 23 at Farmer's Plaza, Cubao.

'Kasilag Guitar Concert'

THE MANILA Chamber Orchestra Foundation presents the fourth concert in its MCO Arts Festival, featuring the Kasilag Guitar Quartet on Oct. 22 at the Equitable PCI Bank's Francisco Santiago Hall. The acclaimed quartet will interpret the works of National Artists **Lucresia Kasilag** and **Antonino Buenaventura.**

New member

SIDE A's latest single, "Later," features the band's newest member, **Lee Von Cailao**, on vocals and guitar. The single is taken from the group's "Side A Gig—All Hits Live!" album.

Other cuts include "Heart of Mine," "Sailing," "Faithfully," "Wild World," "Stormy," "Rosanna," "Rainbow's End," "Our Love," "Stars" and "Just Can't Get Enough."

Side A will perform in North America in November and December. Bagaberde's Roxas Boulevard branch is hosting a send-off party for the band at 10 p.m. on Oct. 25.

On Star Movies

TODAY (Oct. 18) at 6 p.m., "Prozac Nation." 7:30 p.m., "Home Alone."

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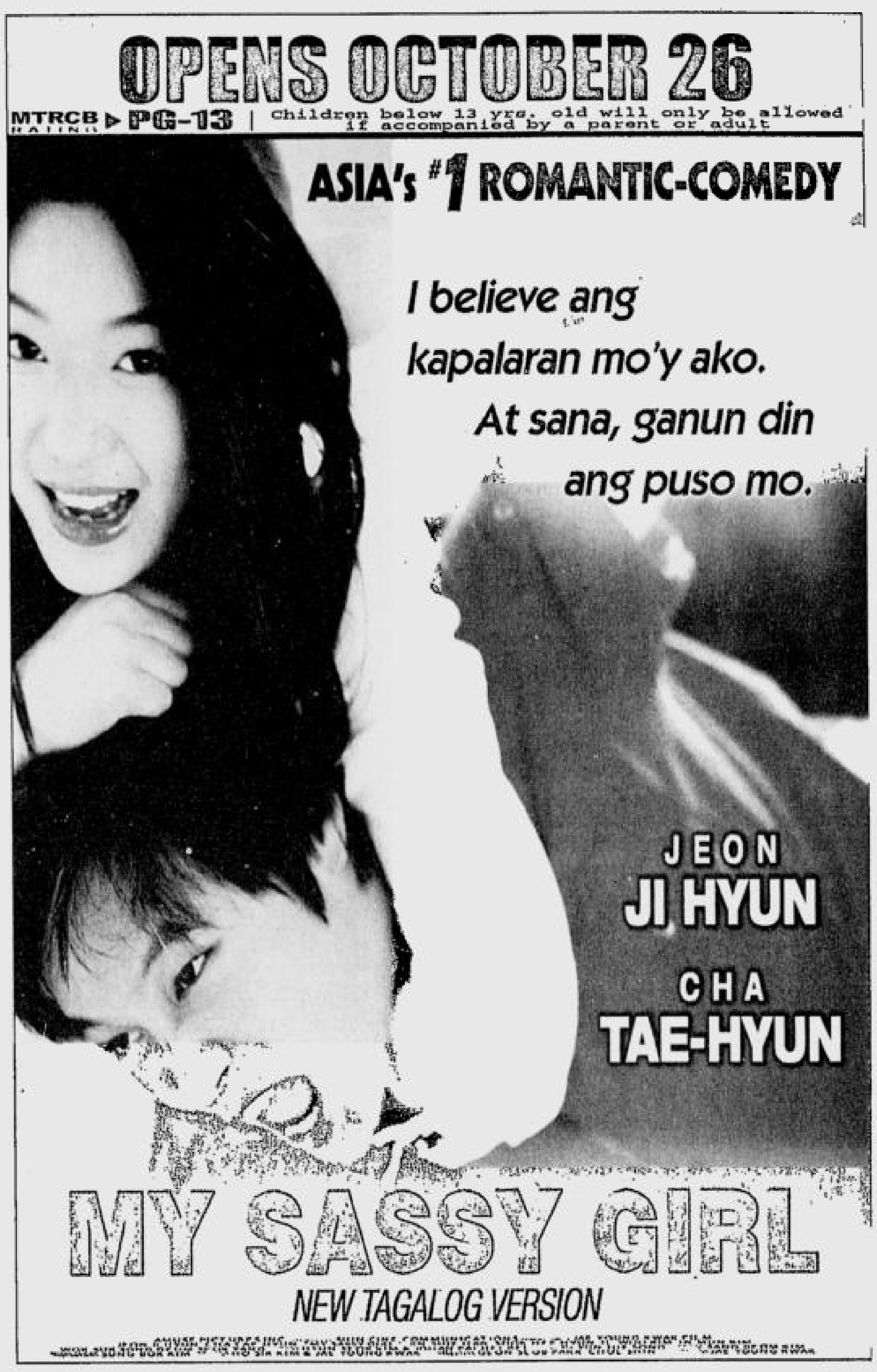

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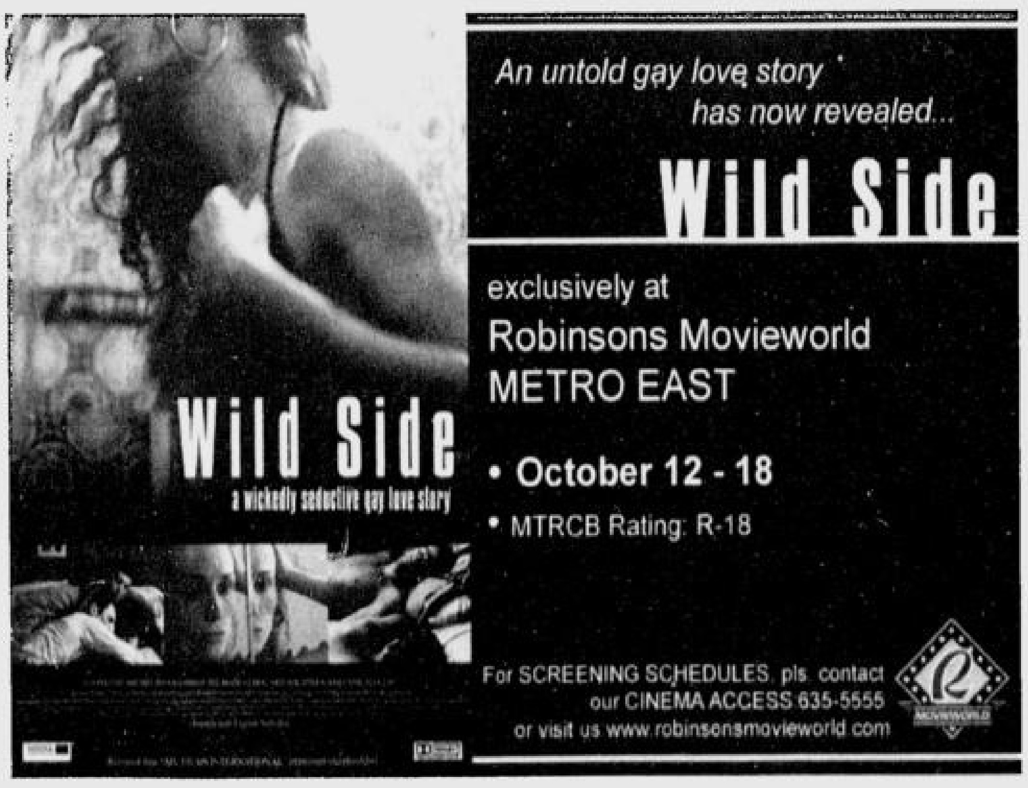

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12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

4 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

5 WALLACE AND GROMIT
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

6 CORPSE BRIDE
12:00 1:50 3:50 5:50 7:50 9:50

7 LAND OF THE DEAD
1:20 3:40 5:50 8:00 10:00

8 INTO THE BLUE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

9 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

10 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 LORD OF WAR 10:10 12:25 2:45 5:05 7:25 10:00

2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:30 9:50

3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:30 9:50

4 CUT 11:00 1:00
TRABAHO 3:10 5:10
DILIM 7:40 9:50

5 ANG DAAN PATUNGONG KALIMUGTONG 11:00 1:00
ALA VERDE ALA POBRE 3:00 5:30
MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN 8:00 9:50

6 TULI 11:00 1:10 3:20
ILUSYON 5:45 7:55 10:00

7 LILIA FOREVER
TOGETHER
THE KING /PALERMO HOLLYWOOD

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 WALLACE AND GROMIT
11:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:10

2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
11:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:10

3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
12:30 2:40 4.50 7:00 9:10

4 INTO THE BLUE
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

5 LORD OF WAR
1:05 3:45 5:25 9:15

6 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

7 TRANSPORTER 2
12:50 2.50 4:50 6:50 9:00

8 WILD SIDE
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3241/935-3228-30

1 INTO THE BLUE
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 TRANSPORTER 2

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 INTO THE BLUE
2 THE DESCENT
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 LORD OF WAR
2 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
3 WALLACE AND GROMIT
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2

Local Digital Features

ALA VERDE ALA POBRE
(Ana Capri, Ebong Joson) **Directed by:** Bricio Santos

ANG DAAN PATUNGONG KALIMUGTONG
(Analyn Bangsi-il, Nemee Tocdangan, Rhenuel Ordono)
Directed by: Ramon De Guzman

CUT
(Joel Torre) **Directed by:** Jon Red

DILIM
(Rica Peralejo, Mario Magallona, Emilio Garcia)
Directed by: Topel Lee

ILUSYON
(Yul Servo, JC Parker)
Directed by: Paulo Villaluz / Ellen Ramos

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN
(Richard Quan, Neil Ryan Sese, Maria Isabel Lopez)
Directed by: Gil Portes

TRABAHO
(Ping Medina, Sigrid Bernardo) **Directed by:** Ned Trespeces

TULI
(Desiree Del Valle, Carlo Aquino) **Directed by:** Auraeus Solito

CINEMANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2005

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Ermita
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- October 12 to 25 -

CINEMANILA

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
3 THE DESCENT
4 LORD OF WAR

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
4 THE PERFECT CATCH

DASMARINAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
2 SIX
3 THE PERFECT CATCH
4 THE CONSTANT GARDENER

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 BLADE OF THE ROSE
2 THE DESCENT
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 THE CROW 4

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 LORD OF WAR
2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 THE DESCENT
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 THE PERFECT MAN
5 THE CROW 4
6 LORD OF WAR

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463 (034) 441-0459

1 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
2 DARK WATER
3 THE PERFECT CATCH
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER
5 HONEY
6 THE PERFECT MAN

ILOILO (033) [illegible]-8070

1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 THE PERFECT MAN
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 DEUCE BIGALOW

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AYALA
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GB 3 Ground Floor Lobby & Casa Armas Restaurant

GREENBELT
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October 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 30
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Ayala MUSEUM

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Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS

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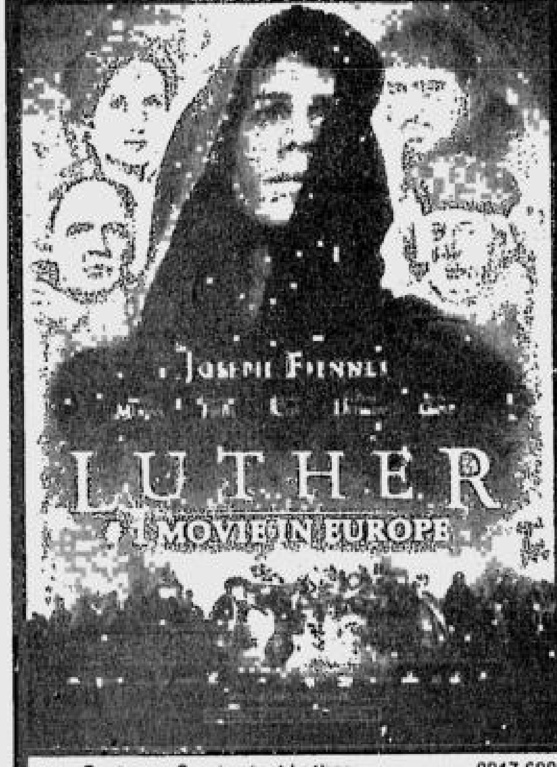
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 LORD OF WAR	2 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	3 THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN	4 DUBAI
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CORPSE BRIDE	2 INTO THE BLUE	3 THX LORD OF WAR 12 30, 3 00, 5 30, 8 00, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 2	5 WALLACE & GROMIT	6 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	7 THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 LORD OF WAR 11.10, 1.40, 4:10, 6 40, 9 10	2 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO 12.25, 2 25, 4.25, 6 25, 8.25		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX LORD OF WAR 1 00, 3 30, 6 00, 8 30, 11 00 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGOLO 1 15, 3 15, 5 15, 7 15, 9.15, 11 15 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 INTO THE BLUE 1 30, 3 45, 6 00, 8 15, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 CORPSE BRIDE 1:20, 3 10, 5 00, 6 50, 8 40, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN 1 40, 4 05, 6 30, 8 55, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	2 LORD OF WAR		
	3 DUBAI	4 WALLACE & GROMIT	5 THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	2 LORD OF WAR	3 THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN	4 DUBAI



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② DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
③ WALLACE & GROMIT
④ DUBAI
⑤ LORD OF WAR

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Oct. 15 (Saturday) 10 am to 12 mn
Oct. 16 (Sunday) 10 am to 10 pm

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NOW SHOWING at SM CINEMA

CENTER Stage EVENT CALENDAR

LIVE CONCERTS

NORTH EDSA

BAMBOO
November 11, 2005
Friday • 8:30 PM

KITCHIE & BARBIE
November 22, 2005

MEGAMALL

SOUTHBORDER
November 26, 2005
Saturday • 8:00 PM

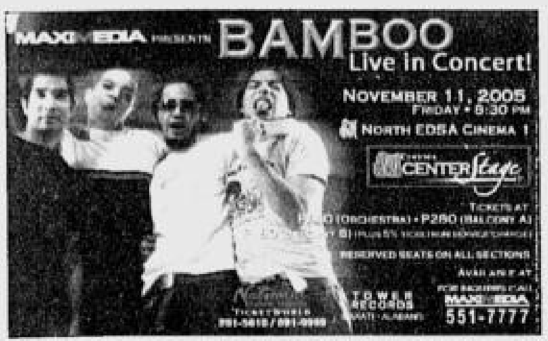
LIVE PLAYS

CEBU

THE KING & 1
October 18-22, 2005
Cinema 1

BACOOR

SILANG MGA BATA
October 20-21, 2005
October 13,2005



SOUTH BORDER
AT LARGE

movietime

FOR GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
12:30FS/01:00MF/03:00/05:00/07:00
08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:30END
2 LORD OF WAR
01:00FS/01:20MF/03:50/06:20
08:20LFS/09:00LMF/11:00END

MEGAMALL
LORD OF WAR
11:30FS/12:00MF/02:30/05:00/07:30
09:30LFS/10:00LMF/12:00END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 THE KING & 1
(stage play)
2 LORD OF WAR
12:00FS/12:18MF/02:36/04:54/07:12
09:08LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
12:00FS/12:20MF/02:10/04:00/05:50/07:40
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/10:55END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 LORD OF WAR
2 WALLACE AND GROMIT
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 TRANSPORTER 2
5 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
6 INTO THE BLUE
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 DUBAI
9 DUBAI
10 TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
11 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
12 LAND OF THE DEAD

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 WALLACE AND GROMIT
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
5 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 LORD OF WAR
8 INTO THE BLUE
9 DUBAI
10 DARK WATER
11 BLADE OF THE ROSE
12 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM NORTH EDSA
DEUCE BIGALOW
2 WALLACE & GROMIT
DUBAI
4 DUNGEONS & DRAGON
5 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
INTO THE BLUE
8 LORD OF WAR

SM CITY MANILA
DEUCE BIGALOW
DUNGEONS & DRAGON
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 LORD OF WAR
5 WALLACE & GROMIT
6 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
CINEMANILA
8 CINEMANILA
9 DUBAI
LAND OF THE DEAD
DUBAI
CINEMANILA

SM CITY STA MESA
1 LORD OF WAR
2 DUNGEONS & DRAGON
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 DUBAI
6 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
7 INTO THE BLUE
8 WALLACE & GROMIT
9 TRANSPORTER 2
10 LAND OF THE DEAD

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
LORD OF WAR
DUBAI
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 DUNGEONS & DRAGON
40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
6 TRANSPORTER 2
INTO THE BLUE
WALLACE & GROMIT
9 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
LAND OF THE DEAD

SM SAN LAZARO
LORD OF WAR
DEUCE BIGALOW
3 WALLACE & GROMIT
4 DUNGEONS & DRAGON
CINEMANILA
6 DUBAI

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 DUNGEONS & DRAGON
2 LORD OF WAR
DUBAI
4 DEUCE BIGALOW

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 LORD OF WAR
2 DUBAI
3 DUNGEONS & DRAGON
4 DEUCE BIGALOW

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
LORD OF WAR
DEUCE BIGALOW
3 CONSTANT GARDENER
4 INTO THE BLUE
ONE MISSED CALL 2
6 DUBAI

SM CITY BACOOR
TRANSPORTER 2
WALLACE & GROMIT
LORD OF WAR
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
DEUCE BIGALOW
DUBAI
TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
8 INTO THE BLUE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DUBAI
4 WALLACE & GROMIT

SM CITY LUCENA
1 DUBAI
2 PERFECT CATCH
3 THE CAVE
4 DEUCE BIGALOW

SM CITY BAGUIO
LORD OF WAR
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
DUBAI
4 DEUCE BIGALOW

SM CITY MARILAO
DEUCE BIGALOW
2 LORD OF WAR
DUBAI
4 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 PERFECT CATCH
2 DUBAI
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 LAND OF THE DEAD

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
KING & 1 (STAGE PLAY)
LORD OF WAR
DEUCE BIGALOW
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 DARK WATER
LAND OF THE DEAD
DUBAI
8 INTO THE BLUE

SM CITY ILOILO
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 RESERVED
3 DUBAI
4 DARK WATER
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 A SOUND OF THUNDER
7 RESERVED
8 LONG WEEKEND

SM CITY DAVAO
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 DEUCE BIGALOW
6 LORD OF WAR

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 DUBAI
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 PERFECT CATCH

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

FILM FESTIVAL

CINEMANILA 7th International Film Festival October 12-25, 2005

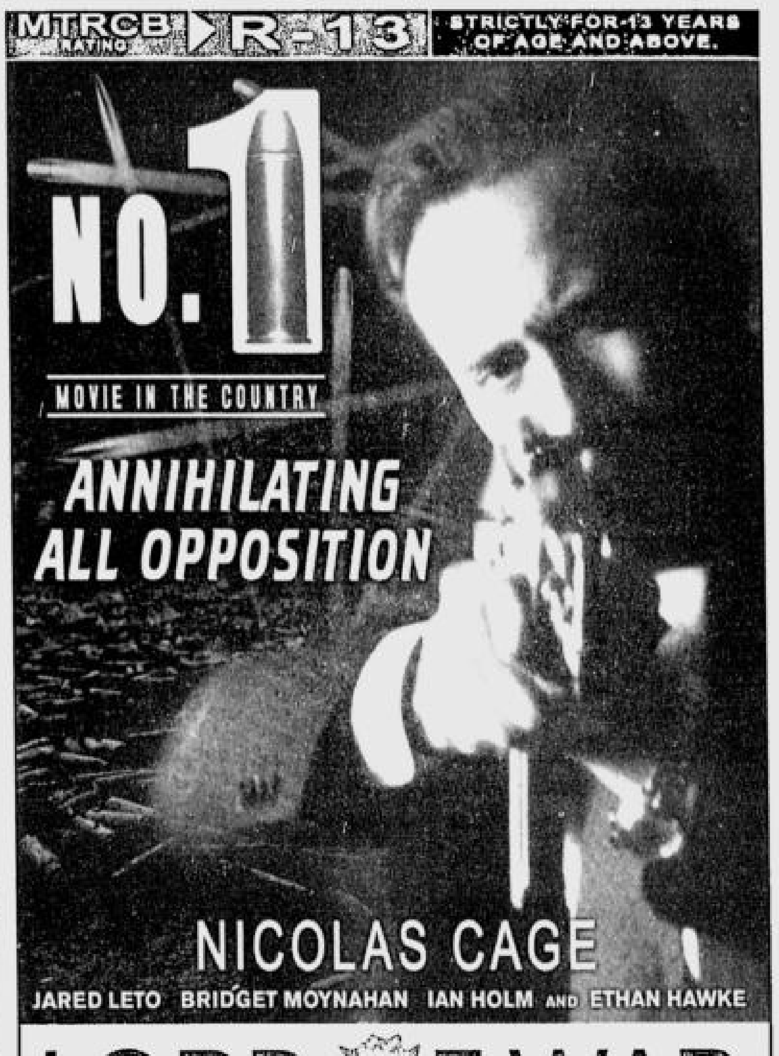
ilusyon
trabaho
LOCAL DIGITAL FILM ENTRIES
ADIM
Ali

INTERNATIONAL FILM ENTRIES

(Norway) by Hans Petter Moland
(France) by Olivier Assayas
(Finland) by Aku Louhimies
(Morocco) by Mohamed Asli
(Senegal) by Ousmane Sembene
(Poland) by Krzysztof Krauze
(Argentina) by Eduardo Pinto
(Philippines) by Cesar Montano
(Indonesia) by Ravi Bharwani
(Belgium) by Jean Pierre and Luc Dardenne
(Belgium) by Hilde Van Mieghem
(Korea) by Sang soo lin

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE.



JARED LETO BRIDGET MOYNAHAN IAN HOLM AND ETHAN HAWKE

LORD OF WAR

WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WEAPON.

VIVA NOW SHOWING

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CINEMA 1 DUNGEONS & DRAGON - PG13 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
CINEMA 2 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN - R13 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 WALLACE & GROMIT - GP 10:50, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:50
CINEMA 4 LORD OF WAR PG13 11:10, 1:35, 4:00, 6:25, 8:50
CINEMA 5 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 - R13 10:45, 12:40, 2:35, 4:30, 6:25, 8:20, 10:15

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM
October 21, 22 & 28 PENIS TALKS 2 : All About Men 9PM
October 27, 2005 TARA TAMBUNTING CONCERT 8PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX

① WALLACE & GROMIT
MTRCB GP
12.40, 3.00, 5.20, 7:40, 10:00

② DEUCE BIGALOW 2
MTRCB R-13
12.40, 3.00, 5.20, 7:40, 10:00

③ LORD OF WAR
MTRCB R-13
2.00, 4 40, 7.20, 10.00

④ 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN
MTRCB R-13
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE CORPSE BRIDE
MTRCB GP 1.30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30 LMF
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Shangri-La Plaza

Araneta Center Leisure Guide

CINEMA SCHEDULES

Gateway Cineplex 10
LEVEL 4 GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

DEUCE BIGALOW 2
12 35 / 2:50 / 5:05 / 7:20 / 9:35
LORD OF WAR
12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
WALLACE & GROMIT
2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 2
12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
CORPSE BRIDE
2:10 / 4 20 / 6:30 / 8:40

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
DEUCE BIGALOW 2 2.15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9.00
THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN
1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
INTO THE BLUE
1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
DUBAI
1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
TRANSPORTER 2
1 50 / 4 20 / 6.50 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS
① DUBAI
12 30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
② LORD OF WAR
11 55 / 2:45 / 5.35 / 8:25
③ DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 2
12 05 / 2 55 / 5 45 / 8 35
④ INTO THE BLUE
12:35 / 3:05 / 5.35 / 8:05
⑤ DEUCE BIGALOW 2
12 10 R3 / 1:25 / 3:40 / 5:55 / 8:10
DOLBY DIGITAL DTS SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
Oct 19 Wed GINEBRA vs ALASKA 4 40 pm
TALK N TEXT vs STA LUCIA 7 25 pm
Oct 21 Friday COCA COLA vs TALK N TEXT 4 40 pm
ALASKA vs AIR 21 7 25 pm

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

Bublé's heart, Maryo J's hug and Aiko's honey

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I AM AN OLD SOUL. WHICH IS PROBABLY why I go for the music of **Michael Bublé.**

I immensely enjoyed his concert at the Big Dome last week. It was my first time to see him perform live. I was in for a big surprise. I thought it would be a quiet, laid-back evening with Bublé singing one classic song after another. I was mistaken.

Bublé is not your typical crooner who sounds like a jukebox playing old love songs. He breathes emotion into his music and makes you part of every line. Sad songs don't seem so sad anymore. His ballads do not lull you to sleep. They awaken your heart—in whatever state it's in.

At the concert, I bumped into **Bong Revilla** and **Lani Mercado** who looked like teenagers out on a date. I also saw dear friend **Leo Valdez** who's taking a break from his charmed life in London to hook up with relatives here and in Bacolod. The ever fab **Tessa Prieto-Valdes** and the stars' eyewear guru **Vivian Sarabia** were enjoying Bublé's show, too.

The jam-packed crowd went wild when Bublé did his impersonations of **Josh Groban, Michael Jackson** and Maroon 5. He gamely mingled with the audience and even went all the way to the bleachers to serenade adoring fans. Before giving in to the clamor for an encore, Bublé thanked all Pinoys and said "There was a time that you were the only ones listening to my songs. You made it happen for me. I will keep coming back for you."

Bublé's music will never ever leave us. It lives inside every Pinoy's incurably romantic heart.

Maryo J's bash

DIREK **Maryo J. de los Reyes** and I fondly call each other "Tokyo Love" because our friendship blossomed while we were in Japan. I always make it a point not to miss his birthday bashes. Maryo J has a way of making his old and new friends bond instantly.

At the party, he told me: "It's funny that some GMA 7 people thought that this is an exclusive ABS-CBN party since the show I'm directing is on Channel 2. I told them it's open to everybody. *Hindi ito* showbiz party *ng* Kapuso or Kapamilya. I want to celebrate not just my birthday, but all the friendships I've made along the way."

Spotted at the party were **Mother Lily Monteverde, Rudy Fernandez, Ara Mina, Lloyd Samartino, Lotlot de Leon, Chanda Romero, Ernie Garcia, Cherrie Pie Picache,** The Maskulados, **Al Tantay** among others.

Although he has already made an indelible mark in the biz, Maryo J. is not one to rest on his laurels. He's one restless mentor who keeps honing newcomers. His freshest find is a band named M-gage, made up of five gorgeous guys (**Jo Armas, Orlando Sol, Blumark Roces, Craig Alcantara** and **Saj Hufalar**). Prolific songwriter **Rannie Raymundo** composed some of the band's songs. They sound like a young Apo Hiking Society. You can catch their gigs in bars around town. As I was watching Direk do the patented "Maryo J hug" (his arms envelop you and left you like a kid) I smiled and told myself: "A love like this doesn't happen only in the movies." And Direk will never shout "Cut!" to all the loving around him in all his birthdays to come.

Just asking

IS THE nth split-up of **Jennylyn Mercado** and **Mark Herras** for real? If they haven't reached their saturation point yet, show biz watchers have already. This young couple had better stop crying "wolf!" or the big bad wolf might just gobble up their hearts.

After the success of "Dubai" (which totally moved me), is it true that Star Cinema's next movie will be "Malaysia" with **Kristine Hermosa** as one of the lead stars? Pinoy love stories shot in foreign lands apparently have hit a home-run. Wherever in the world Pinoys roam, they carry *l'amour.*

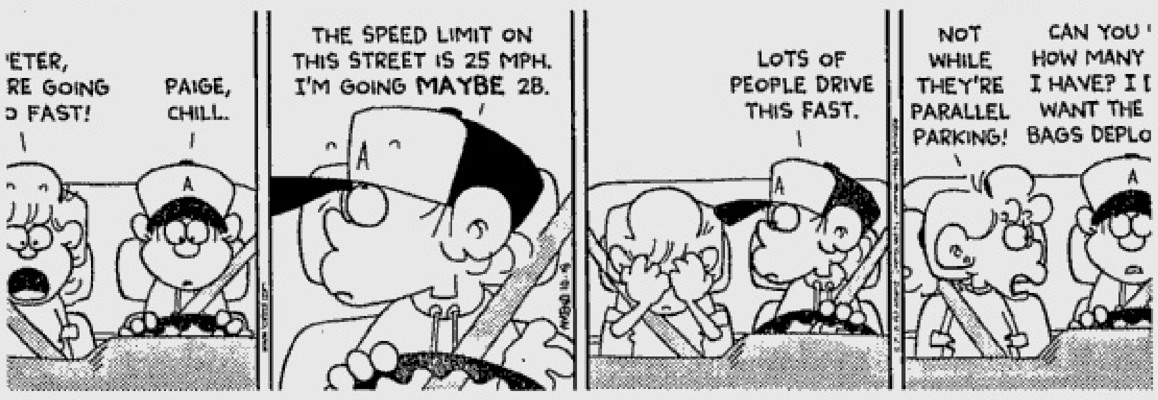
A concerned viewer asks: Why does **Jerome Sala** often get his lyrics wrong when he's singing on TV? Isn't that worse than a badly synchronized lip-synching?

How can **Aiko Melendez** be called a "boyfriend grabber" by people close to her constant date, model **Martin Jick-**

BUBLÉ'S/ A22

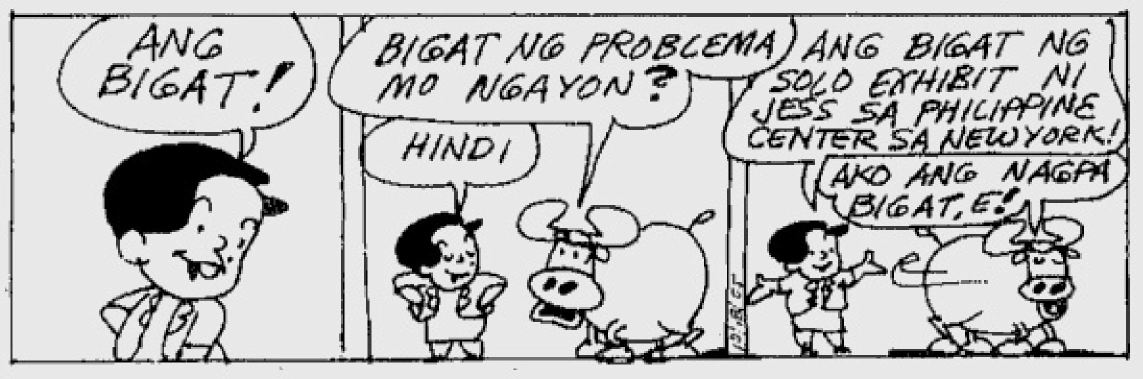
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


'ETER,
'RE GOING
) FAST!
PAIGE, CHILL.
THE SPEED LIMIT ON THIS STREET IS 25 MPH. I'M GOING MAYBE 28.
LOTS OF PEOPLE DRIVE THIS FAST.
NOT WHILE THEY'RE PARALLEL PARKING!
CAN YOU ' HOW MANY I HAVE? I I WANT THE BAGS DEPLO

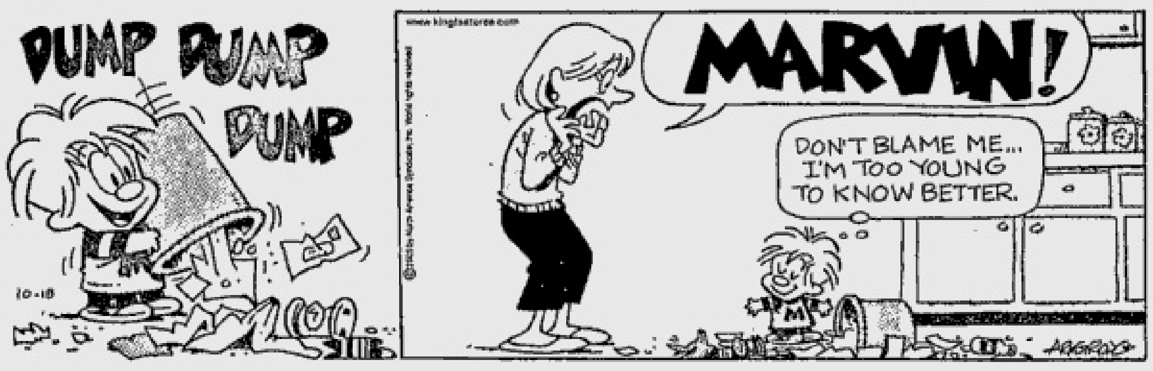
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG BIGAT!
BIGAT NG PROBLEMA MO NGAYON?
HINDI
ANG BIGAT NG SOLO EXHIBIT NI JESS SA PHILIPPINE CENTER SA NEW YORK!
AKO ANG NAGPA BIGAT, E!

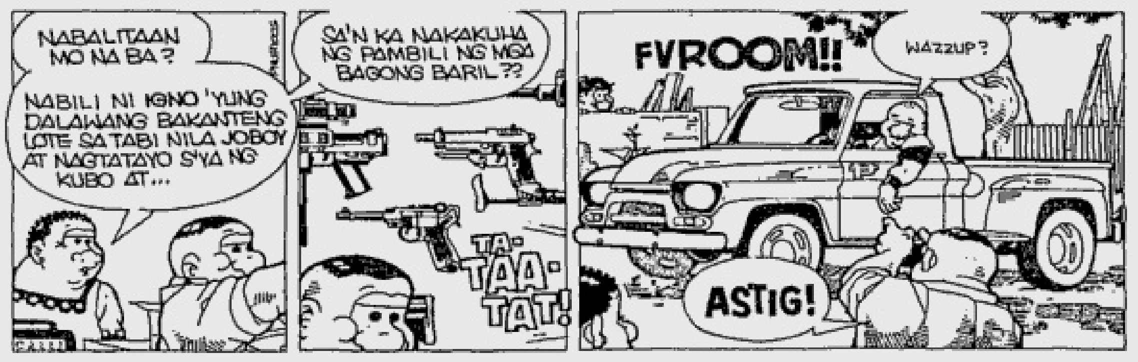
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


DUMP DUMP DUMP
10-18
MARVIN!
DON'T BLAME ME... I'M TOO YOUNG TO KNOW BETTER.

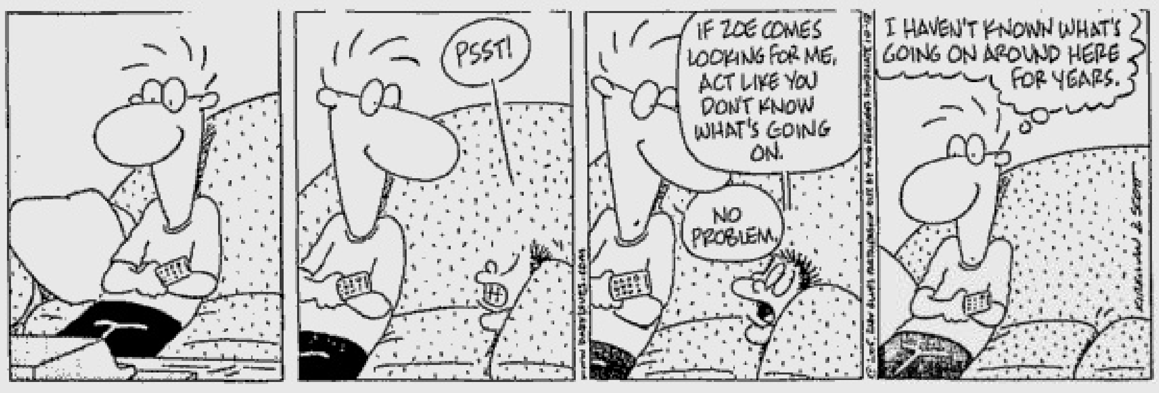
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NABALITAAN MO NA BA?
NABILI NI IGNO 'YUNG DALAWANG BAKANTENG LOTE SA TABI NILA JOBOY AT NAGTATAYO S'YA NG KUBO AT...
SA'N KA NAKAKUHA NG PAMBILI NG MGA BAGONG BARIL??
TA-TAA-TAT!
FVROOM!!
WAZZUP?
ASTIG!

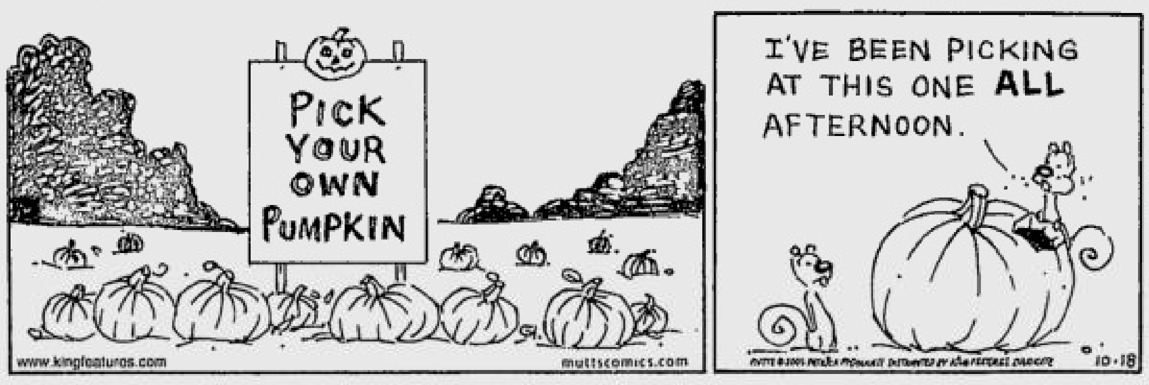
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


PSST!
IF ZOE COMES LOOKING FOR ME, ACT LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
NO PROBLEM.
I HAVEN'T KNOWN WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE FOR YEARS.

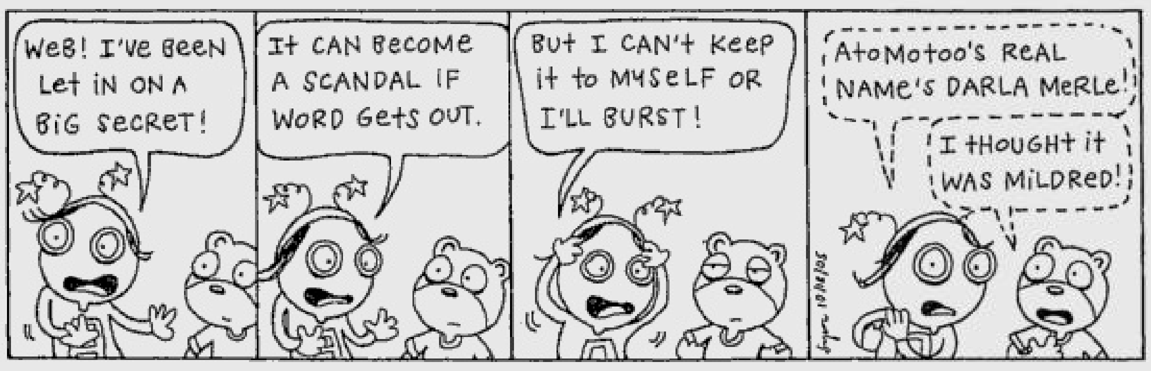
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


PICK YOUR OWN PUMPKIN
I'VE BEEN PICKING AT THIS ONE ALL AFTERNOON.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
10-18

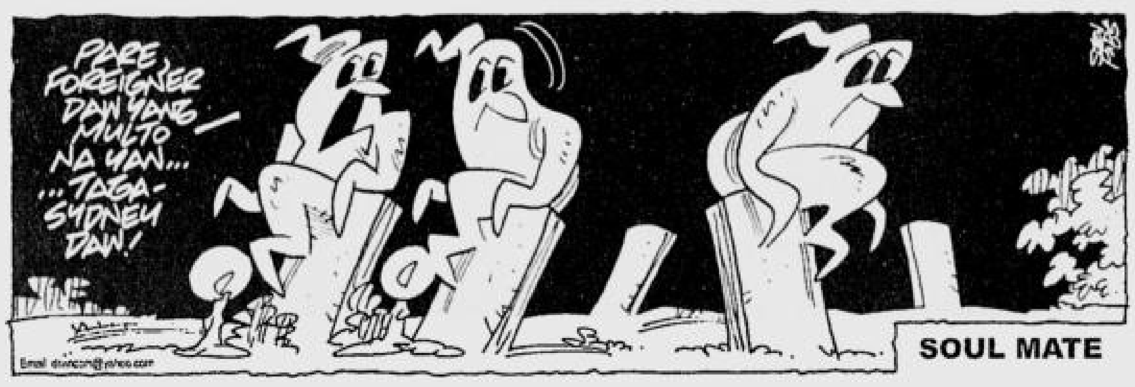
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WeB! I'Ve BeeN Let iN ON A BiG SeCReT!
It CAN BeCoMe A SCANDAL IF WoRD Gets OUT.
But I CAN't Keep it to MYSeLF OR I'LL BURST!
AtoMotoo's ReaL NAMe's DARLA MeRLe!
I tHOUGHt it WAS MiLDReD!

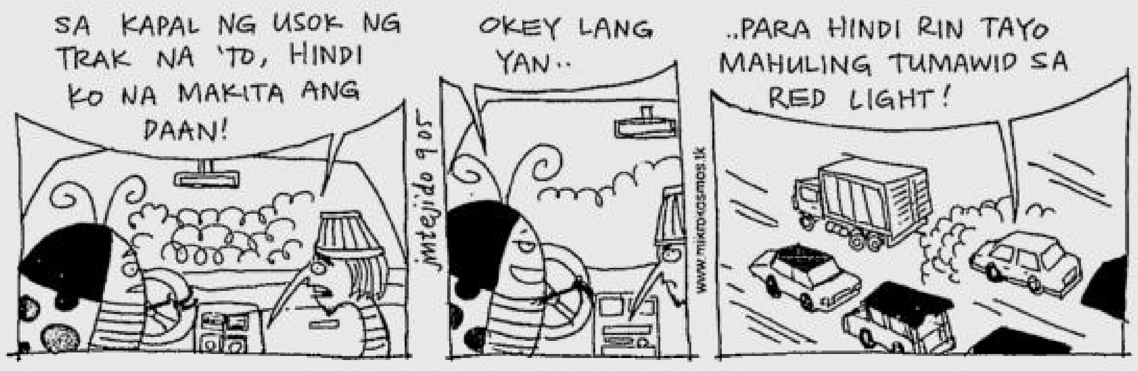
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


PARE FOREIGNER DAW YANG MULTO NA YAN... ...TAGA-SYDNEY DAW!
SOUL MATE

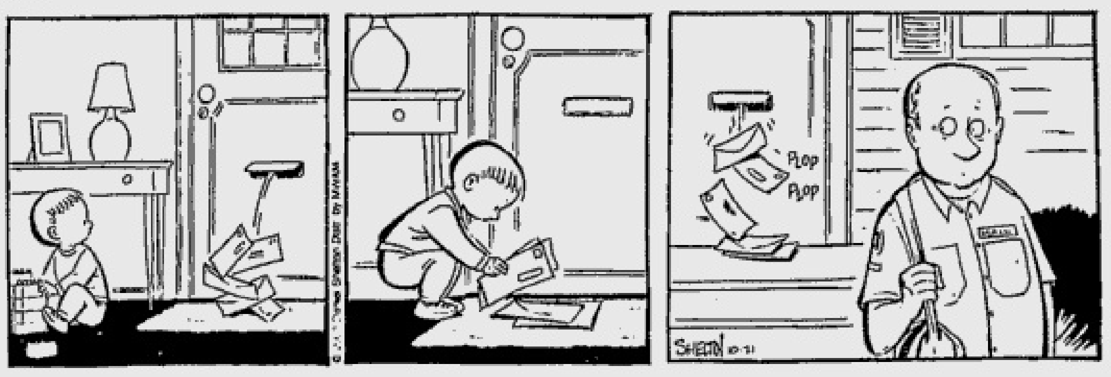
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SA KAPAL NG USOK NG TRAK NA 'TO, HINDI KO NA MAKITA ANG DAAN!
OKEY LANG YAN..
..PARA HINDI RIN TAYO MAHULING TUMAWID SA RED LIGHT!
jmtejido 9 05
www.mikrokosmos.tk

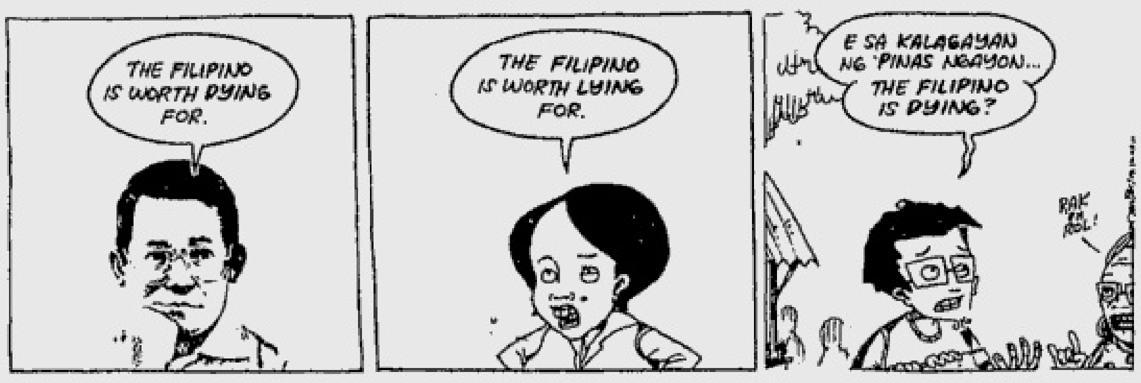
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


PLOP
PLOP
SHELTON 10-21

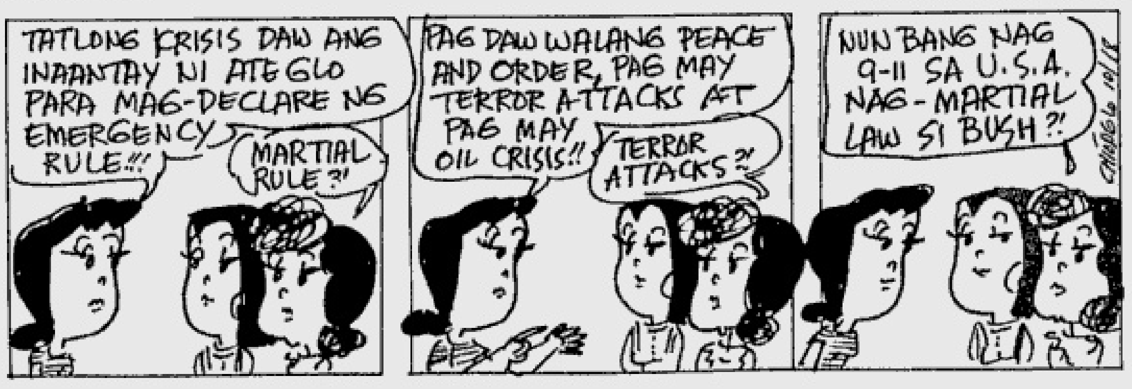
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


THE FILIPINO IS WORTH DYING FOR.
THE FILIPINO IS WORTH LYING FOR.
E SA KALAGAYAN NG 'PINAS NGAYON... THE FILIPINO IS DYING?
RAK EN ROL!

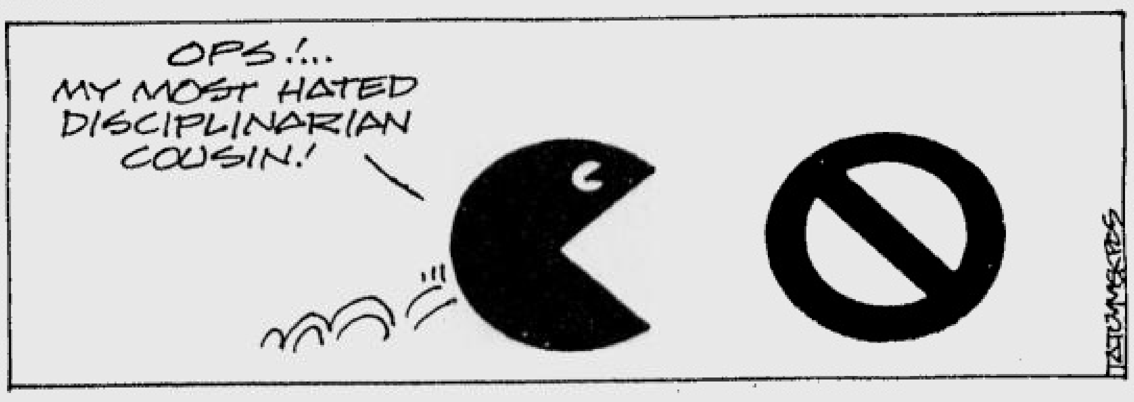
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


TATLONG KRISIS DAW ANG INAANTAY NI ATE GLO PARA MAG-DECLARE NG EMERGENCY RULE!!!
MARTIAL RULE?!
PAG DAW WALANG PEACE AND ORDER, PAG MAY TERROR ATTACKS AT PAG MAY OIL CRISIS!!
TERROR ATTACKS?!
NUN BANG NAG 9-11 SA U.S.A. NAG-MARTIAL LAW SI BUSH?!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OPS!... MY MOST HATED DISCIPLINARIAN COUSIN!

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a powerful personality. Because of this, you influence the lives of those around you. Your imagination helps you to see trends and movements in society. You know how to be where the action is. The year ahead could be one of the best years of your life!
Birthdate of: Mike Ditka, football player/coach; Chuck Berry, musician; Martina Navratilova, tennis player.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a poor day to divide shared possessions or anything important with anyone. You might get the short end of the stick. In large measure, this is because you're confused about what to do.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Partnerships are extremely confusing now. Someone might upset you, and you're not sure why. If this is the case, don't act, and say very little.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): It's hard to get a straight story from a co-worker now. You're not sure if you're coming or going. Double-check all your work. (Fantasies and daydreams interfere with your concentration.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Matters connected with romance, love affairs, working with children, vacations, the arts and financial speculation are very confusing now! Therefore, refrain from making important decisions.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Try to get the whole story before you help a family member today. It's very easy to be misunderstood by others. Someone could be selling you a bill of goods!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You can't help daydreaming today. Your mind is elsewhere. Conversations with others (especially siblings) are like two ships passing in the night. Take everything with a grain of salt.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Be careful with financial speculation. Ditto for gambling. You think you know what the situation is, but you don't. You don't have all the facts!

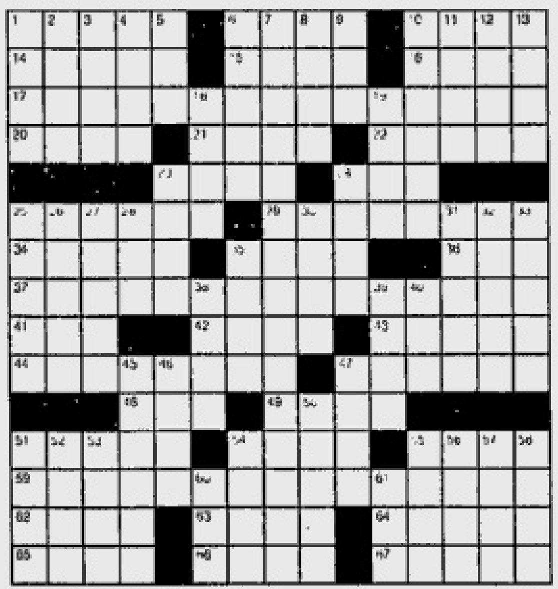
SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a terrible day for important discussions, especially about real estate or with family members. Best to zip your lip. Misunderstandings abound today!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's easy to imagine that your worst fears are coming true. Or you might feel others are critical of you. Not! That little insecure voice in your head is going crazy today. (Ignore it.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might idealize a friend today. Conversely, you might be disappointed in a friend today. Either way, you cannot trust your reactions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Double-check all instructions from authority figures, bosses, parents, etc. All communications are confused today. You might think you understand what others want, but you don't.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your idealism is aroused. You have pie-in-the-sky solutions for things. The problem is that it's hard to be realistic. You have your head in the clouds, and your feet are not on the ground.



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD
10/18/05

ACROSS
1 Wraparound warmer
6 '60s hairdo
10 Polish companion?
14 Ann ___, MI
15 Marsh growth
16 Perspiration conduit
17 7D trio
20 Flock females
21 Gets some grub
22 Brings in
23 Tommyrot!
24 Family figures
25 Soviet dictator
29 Dumbo, for one
34 Condor's claw
35 Aphrodite's son
36 Cheerleading word
37 7D quartet
41 Diary of sorts
42 Wait patiently
43 Longed (for)
44 Independent sort
47 Aromatic woods
48 Thar ___ blows!
49 "Sleepless in Seattle" star Meg
51 Thin pancake
54 Prejudice
55 Gobi's location
59 7D trio
62 Burn balm
63 Looped yarn bundle
64 Quick on one's feet
65 Patch up
66 Bookie's concern
67 Tribal symbol

DOWN
1 Unhurt
2 Gullet
3 Up to the job
4 Mythical birds of prey
5 To's partner
6 Gertrude's tapestry
7 Buddy of Audubon's?
8 Ups the RPMs
9 Praiseful composition
10 Bellyflop effect
11 Church mouse descriptive
12 Something to pump?
13 Folding money
18 Kind of sign
19 Tide type
23 Tie down
24 Mexican currency
25 Nonetheless
26 No-no
27 True up
28 Spanish article
30 Folk wisdom
31 Bout site
32 Identifier
33 Heavy, dull sounds
35 Satan's specialty
38 Woodwind member
39 Broad-minded
40 Little shaver
45 Laid eyes on
46 As soon as
47 Group of thespians
50 Jerks sharply
51 Study hard for exams
52 Function
53 Poet's black
54 Small nail
55 Jason's mythical ship
56 Business outfit
57 ___ Royale, MI
58 Throaty break-in
60 Sci-fi Doctor
61 Bowler or deerstalker

Monday's Puzzle Solved

P	A	I	H	■	S	P	A	I	N	■	A	L	A	S
A	T	L	I	■	H	I	N	G	E	■	R	O	M	A
S	W	I	N	G	I	N	T	O	A	C	T	I	O	N
T	A	U	■	A	F	T	E	R	■	R	I	N	S	E
A	R	M	P	I	T	S	■	■	S	I	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	N	Y	■	S	E	E	M	T	O	B	E
C	H	I	C	■	■	A	L	B	E	E	■	A	L	T
R	O	C	K	O	F	G	I	B	R	A	L	T	A	R
A	R	E	■	C	O	E	D	S	■	■	A	S	H	E
M	A	S	S	E	U	S	E	■	J	O	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	L	L	■	■	S	A	V	E	D	U	P
A	D	A	N	O	■	S	T	O	L	E	■	O	N	A
C	O	U	N	T	R	Y	O	F	O	R	I	G	I	N
I	N	R	E	■	O	N	T	A	P	■	R	I	T	E
D	E	A	R	■	B	E	E	R	Y	■	K	E	E	L

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10/18/05

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Janice: 'Pay up, John'

By Marinel R. Cruz

I HOPE JOHN (ESTRADA) COULD still remember the times when he would call just to curse me and tell me '*Mukha kang pera.*' It happened so many times. I didn't react. I just let him scream. How come all of a sudden, *ang bait-bait n'ya* (he is so nice)?"

An infuriated Janice de Belen spoke with INQUIRER Entertainment a day after her former husband appeared on television to comment on a court notice ordering John to pay over P800,000 in child support.

Janice and John's 10-year marriage was annulled in 2003. They have four children—Inah, Moira, Kyla and Yuan.

In an interview on Sunday with ABS-CBN's show biz talk show, "The Buzz," John admitted that he sometimes failed to send money for the children's expenses. "I don't always have enough money," he explained. "But I never forget my obligations as a father. My children can attest to that."

John added that he would even spend for Iggy Boy, Janice's son with actor Aga Muhlach.

"He doesn't have to tell everyone how good a father he is, *gawin na lang n'ya* (he just has to do it). He signed an agreement. He should comply," the actress said.

In a compromise agreement, which Janice and John signed on Jan. 20, 2003, the actor agreed to provide P50,000 every month for their children's expenses. He is also liable for the children's educational, medical and dental expenses.

On Oct. 12, the Pasig City Regional Trial Court issued an alias writ of execution for Sheriff IV Jose Santos to collect from John the amount of P830,051.93, which he failed to provide from September 2004 to May 2005.

INQUIRER Entertainment obtained from Janice's lawyer, Raymond Fortun, copies of the alias writ of execution, notice of garnishment and court order signed by Judge Agnes Reyes-Carpio, which were sent to John.

"I don't want to engage in a word war with John," Janice said. "I never used the word irresponsible to describe him. I simply said part of being a good father is providing for his children."

The actress added: "I'm fighting for my children's sake. If he were in my shoes, I'm sure he'd do the same thing."

On "The Buzz," John said that instead of making their problem public, Janice should have just called him and they could have settled it privately.

"I have nothing to say to him," Janice shot back. "Court documents are public documents. People asked me about them, I simply answered."

Janice claims that her ex-husband earns more than she does. "Between him and myself, I live a very laid-back lifestyle," she said. "I also don't walk around wearing designer clothes. I don't own any jewelry."

She added: "I'm doing my part by working hard for our children; he should do the same. In fact, *kahit mahirap* (although it's hard), I agreed to join 'Extra Challenge' because I needed to earn. I also got into retail (*tiangge*) business. These things take a lot of my time, which I should be spending with my kids. He should be happy, I am not a neglectful mom."

SHE does not want to engage in a word war with her ex-husband. JM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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1	DEUCE BIGALOW 2	1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	R-13
2	WALLACE & GROMIT	1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	GP
3	LORD OF WAR	12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00	R-13
4	40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN	12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00	R-13

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Reality fever on ABC 5

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

GOOD NEWS: SUNDAYS AT 10 P.M., "THE Apprentice, Martha Stewart" is now aired on ABC-5.

Many viewers are eager to catch the new show, so they can compare **Martha**'s hiring and firing style to **Donald Trump**'s.

By the way, the new season of Trump's "Apprentice" show will also be telecast on Channel 5 soon.

Another new show exactly right for Filipino viewers is "So You Think You Can Dance." It will start telecasting on Friday, Oct. 21 at 10 p.m.

Expectedly, the dance competition (produced by the people behind "American Idol") had two Fil-Ams among its 16 finalists (**Melody Lacayanga** and **Ryan Conferido**). Even better news: Melody emerged as the second best talent in the tilt!

Why not watch the show to see why she made it all the way to the grand finals?

In addition, every Sunday from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m., ABC-5 is screening the "Earthpulse" series of National Geographic Channel, dubbed in Filipino.

The advocacy project of Infocamp and ABC-5, the free-TV telecast of the 13-part NGC series aims to reach a larger segment of Filipino viewers, particularly grade school and high school students, who are sure to benefit from the channel's environmental and science programs.

Aside from "Earthpulse," the Infocamp initiative on ABC-5 also aims to screen "The Human Edge," "Game for It," "Hayden Turner's Wildlife Challenge" and "Insects from Hell," all NGC productions.

To further spread the positive effects of the NGC shows, Infocamp aims to visit public schools.

The DepEd accreditation initiative it has received should make it easier for it to connect with its biggest potential audience—the youth.

Early topics in the "Earthpulse" series include the migration of Monarch butterflies to Mexico, animal-abuse, what happens to discarded computers and surviving in the wilds.

We trust that now NGC programs are available on free TV, teachers will see their educational value and include them in their class discussions.

'Eruption at Pinatubo'

SPEAKING of NGC shows, we recently watched "Catastrophe: Eruption at Pinatubo" on cable TV, and found the special documentary both informative and riveting.

The special took viewers through the cataclysmic events beginning in 1991 up to its aftermath in succeeding years. Our heart swelled with pride when the documentary featured the late Phivolcs director Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan, as the hero who helped keep fatalities down to fewer than 300.

Infocamp would do well to secure permission from NGC and dub this special in Filipino so it can be shown on ABC-5. Local viewers would be especially interested in watching it.

Marri Nallos

DUBBED as The Crystal Voice of Asia, Marri Nallos is promoting her compilation album, "Destiny."

The carrier single, "You Are My Destiny,"

NEW/ A22

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TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE GP 1:00,3:00 INTO THE BLUE PG13 5:00,7:30	WALLACE AND GROMIT GP 1:25,3:35,5:45,8:00	DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO R13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00
THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN R13 12:00,2:25,4:50,7:15,9:40	DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40	LORD OF WAR R13 12:00,2:30,5:00, 7:30,10:00

7th CINEMANILA international film festival
In cooperation with the City of Manila
OCTOBER 18, 2005 SCREENINGS

Robinson's Ermita: 11:00am The King R18/ 106mins; 1:30pm Jalal Jalal R18/ 88mins; 4:20pm Together R18/ 106mins; 6:50pm Panaghoy sa Suba R18; 9:40pm Jalal Jalal R18/ 88mins
SM San Lazaro: 10:30am Tuli R13; 12:40pm Dean GP; 2:20pm Cut R13; 3:50pm Verde R13; 6:00pm Dilim R13; 7:35pm Trabaho PG13; 9:25pm Tuli R13
Ever Gotesco: Bishonen; Together; Together; Together; Together
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INQBOX Question of the Week

Your message to the 4 Filipino boxing champions: Brian Viloria, Rey " Boom Boom " Bautista, Bobby Pacquiao and Manny Pacquiao?

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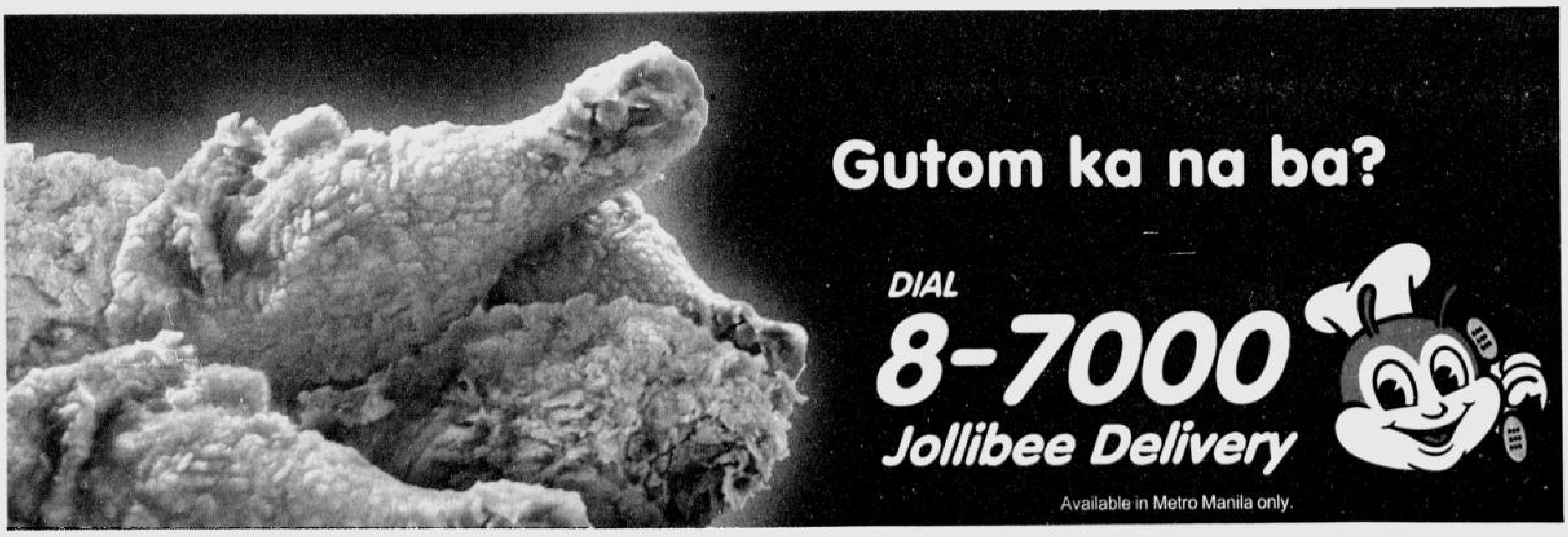

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TUESDAY,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

B1

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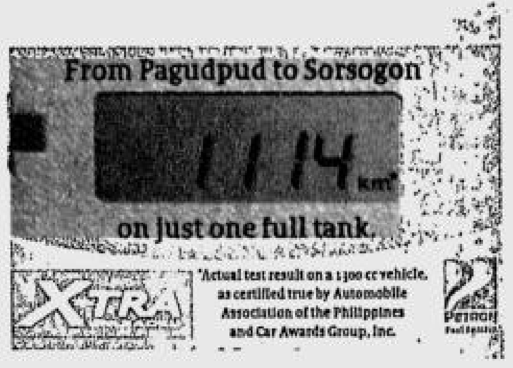

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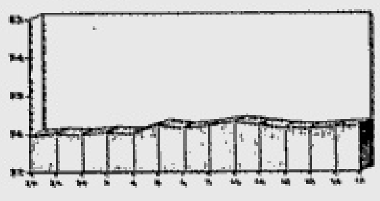

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P55.815 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 17, 2005

¥114.26 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 17, 2005

GOLD: $471.80-472.30
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 17, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Shares close 0.29% lower

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 0.29 percent lower, weighed down by losses in market leader Philippine Long Distance

SHARES/B2

Agri recovery seen to boost Q3 GDP

Higher 2nd half growth to improve chance of hitting '05 target

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ECONOMY, AS measured by the country's gross domestic product, is seen to have grown by at least 5 percent in the third quarter of the year helped on by a recovery in agriculture.

Augusto Santos, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), yesterday said corn and *palay* output, which represent about 25 percent of total agriculture production, posted positive figures in the July-to-September period.

Santos said the actual GDP figures would be available by next month.

The economy is also seen to expand by 5.9 percent in the second half, with full-year growth expected to hit 5.3 percent from 5.7 percent in 2004.

SANTOS

"There was no unusual weather disturbance in the third quarter," Santos yesterday said in the sidelines of the Senate hearing on the proposed 2006 national budget. "We have a good chance of hitting the full-year target."

The El Niño weather problem and strong typhoons caused severe disruption in agricultural supply in the second half of 2004.

The GDP growth of 5 percent or higher for the third quarter of the year would be better than the 4.6 percent and the 4.8 percent recorded in the first and second quarters, respectively.

Neda said the economic growth in the third quarter would keep the country on track to achieving the low-end of the 5.3- to 6.3-percent GDP growth target for the whole of 2005.

Dennis Arroyo, Neda's policy and planning division director, said the fourth quarter is expected to post a higher GDP growth figure than that of the third quarter.

"Historically, the economy remains almost the same in the second and third quarters, and then picks up in the fourth quarter of the year," Arroyo said.

He added that the economy could post an average GDP growth of 5.9 percent in the second half.

The economy needs to grow by at least 5.9 percent in the second semester to meet the low-end (5.3 percent) target for the full year.

The farm sector—comprising nearly a third of the economy—grew just 0.7 percent in the first half from a year earlier due to severe damage to crops brought about by weather disturbances.

In the first half, GDP expanded 4.7 percent from a year earlier.

The economy grew 4.8 percent in the second quarter from the same 2004 period, beating the median forecast of a 4.6 percent rise in a Reuters poll.

The economic planning agency earlier said agriculture is forecast to grow 5.1 percent in the second half from a year earlier; industry by 4.7 percent; and services by 6.5 percent. *With a report from Reuters*

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T-Bill rates drop across the board

BANKS YESTERDAY SCRAMBLED FOR short-term government securities anew to park their excess liquidity, thus forcing a continued drop in Treasury bill rates across all maturities.

The bellwether 91-day T-bill rate, used by banks as a benchmark in pricing loans, slid by 5.9 basis points to only 5.818 percent.

"The low interest rate is the continued reflection of the liquidity in the market," said National Treasurer Omar Cruz in a press briefing after yesterday's T-bill auctions.

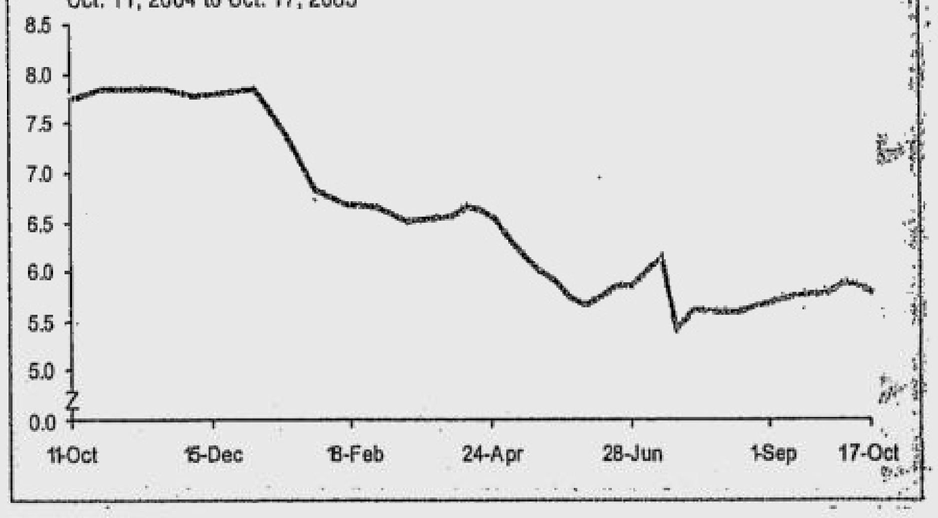
The 182- and 364-day government securities also continued to fetch lower rates. The new interest rate for the six-month bill stood at 7.883 percent, or 6.5 basis points lower than the 7.948 percent recorded last week. The latest rate of 8.928 percent for the one-year debt instrument was 4.8 basis points lower than last week's 8.976 percent.

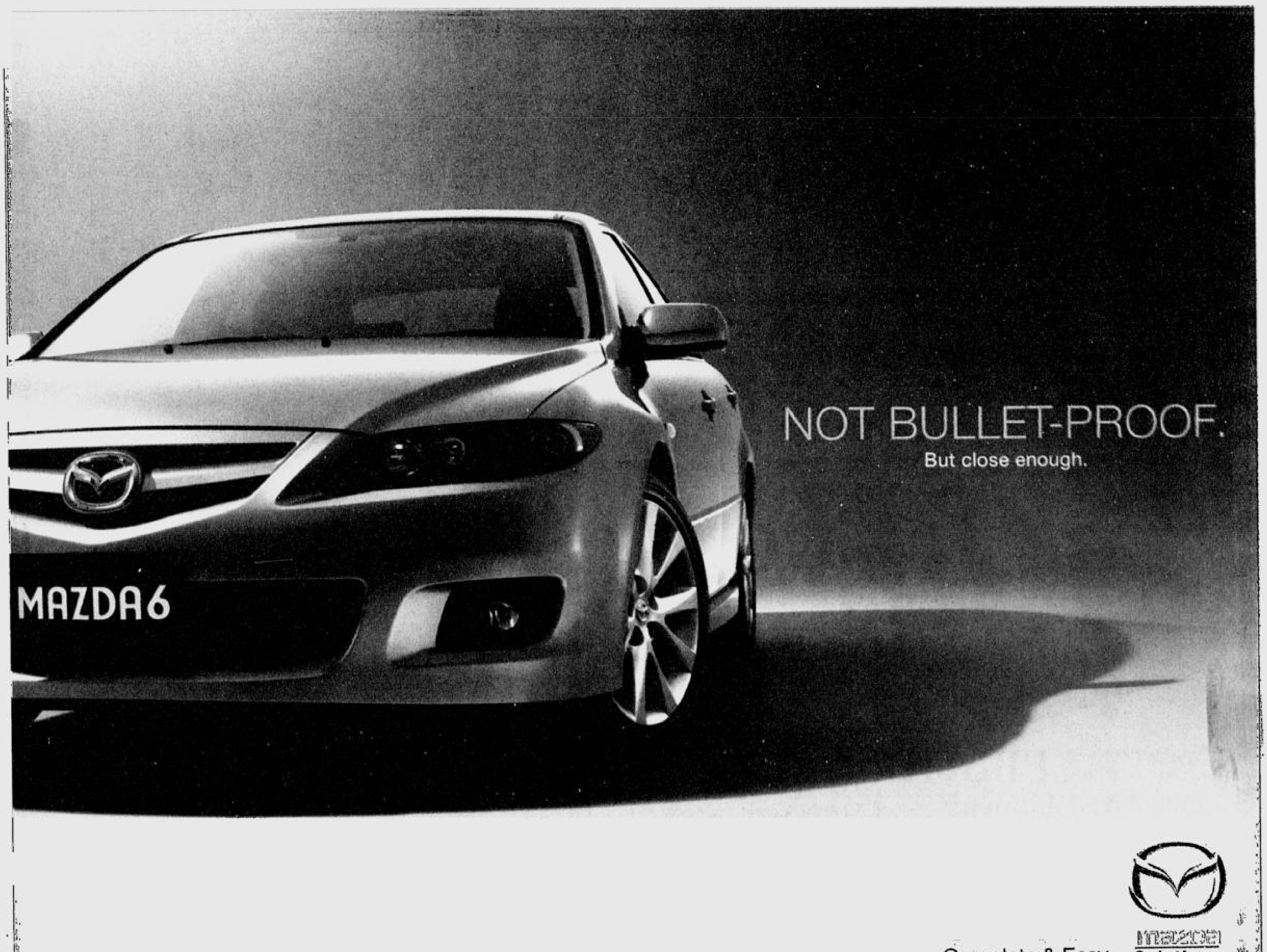
Out of the P1 billion debt offering through the 91-day bill, tenders reached P2.84 billion. The 182-day bill was at least five times over-subscribed, as bids stood at P8.21 billion compared with the debt offering of only 1.5 billion. The 364-day bill gathered bids worth P7.542 billion, although the debt offering was only at P2 billion.

Despite the high volume of bids, the government raised only P4.385 billion from the auction compared with the combined debt offerings of P4.5 billion for all T-bill tenors. This was because the Treasury's auction committee decided to accept only P885 million worth of tenders for the 91-day bill as against the scheduled borrowing of P1 billion.

"I don't want to pay higher because I don't need the excess cash," Cruz explained. He said that had the Treasury accepted P1 billion worth of bids for the 91-day debt paper, interest rates could have gone higher than the recorded 5.818 percent. *Michelle V. Remo*

91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATES
Oct. 11, 2004 to Oct. 17, 2005





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NTC told to enforce standards

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS BARRED THE National Telecommunications Commission from enforcing a May 2005 order allowing cellular phone companies to set their own unlimited pricing and network quality standards.

This means that for the 60-day period, the NTC would have to enforce its 2002 circular requiring wireless players to connect 93 of 100 calls on the first attempt and not prematurely drop 95 of 100 calls.

The appellate court issued the 60-day temporary restraining order against the NTC last week in response to a petition filed by Pilipino Telephone Corp., a subsidiary of the country's largest mobile firm, Smart Communications Inc., which questioned the unlimited pricing scheme of competitor Sun Cellular.

Sun Cellular is the mobile phone brand of Digitel Mobile Phils. Inc.

Piltel claimed that if the network standards were strictly enforced, Sun Cellular's 24/7 scheme would fail the quality test.

Sun Cellular was said to connect only 38 of 100 calls on the first attempt. It would also fail the standard on drop calls since it automatically cuts off calls after 15 minutes.

Innove Communications Inc., a wholly-owned unit of Globe Telecom Inc., has a separate petition before the CA to nullify the NTC's May 24 and Sept. 22 orders making Sun Cellular's 24/7 scheme permanent.

Both carriers alleged that NTC erred in issuing the May order.

Piltel has Talk 'N Text while Innove owns the Touch Mobile brand.

In the May 24, 2005 order, the Commission effectively lifted its 2002 circular on performance standards.

The NTC said that "an inflexible application of the (performance standard) circular" could deprive consumers choices and discourage the thriving competition that has helped regulate the industry."

Sun Cellular set off a price war when it launched a year ago its unlimited, within-network call and text plan called 24/7.

Last month, it started selling another promo called Daylite Call and Text Unlimited, which charges a peso a minute on calls from 6 pm to 11:59 pm.

To protect their market share, Smart and Globe started offering in March similar deals because Sun Cellular was making a dent in the market because of its 24/7 scheme.

Skidding aside

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ONCE IN A WHILE, NEWSMEN LIKE ME love to tease this grouchy, but still trying to be cute, administration of Gloriaetta just for insisting on staying in power.

See what I mean? That kind of teasing—what a joker I really am!

Seriously, I have a little wish for my continued existence on this earth—and also, by the way, for the wellbeing of the rest of my family, close friends and neighbors.

And that is, I hope and pray that the right people get to read this little piece about those hideous monsters in this skidding, cute, hurtful administration.

***

BY THE WAY, just in case the idiots do not get it, at the top of my list are the wonderful men and women of the antiriot police squads.

I particularly refer to those policemen and policewomen wielding those thwacking beauties called truncheons.

One of these days, those logs may just accidentally swing toward the general direction of our heads.

Included in the list, of course, are the Presidential Security Group, the not-too-secret police, and the crooked officers in the military.

By their actuation, we already know whose side they are on, and it is not the side of those who pay for their salaries with hard-earned tax money.

At the end of my priority list of people who richly deserve my endless flattery are those supposed "civilians" to be issued some high-powered weapons.

According to a respectable senator, you see, the weapons have been smuggled into the country by "unknown" people.

Mostly probably, they are "unknown" only to the police and the military authorities.

There I go again with my teasing! I can't take anymore of this ribbing!

***

HEY, guys, all I want to say, with respect, is that you are the most handsome guys in the whole wide world.

Please do me the deepest honor of cleaning your service boots with my tongue, and the esteemed privilege of brushing them with the hair on my head.

Anything for you guys, anytime, because kidding aside, deep in my heart, I really admire your blind loyalty!

Sir, yes, sir, I will give the foul-smelling priests, and even the malodorous bishops, their much deserved bath in the streets, sir! Or most probably it's ... well, "ma'am."

Ma'am, yes, ma'am, I will take care of the results of the elections, ma'am, even if it becomes too obvious, ma'am.

***

IN RETURN for my undying admiration, and this little sweet talk, the anti-riot squads shall please remember that I am an avid fan of the CPR.

Whaaat? I can't hear you, boss-ma'am. What do you mean? Are you telling the taxpayers of this poverty stricken republic that CPR does not stand for "cardiopulmonary resuscitation?"

We grew up believing that CPR is something you learn in PE swimming class, just in case some bishops will need it.

In media, we also know CPR as the late Pulitzer-prize winning journalist and former Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos P. Romulo

Those of us who have relatives in North American know CPR simply as the "Canadian Pacific Railway."

In diplomatic jargon, CPR also refers to the United Nations covenant on "civil and political rights."

But the best meaning for CPR, the very reason I became its avid fan, is "Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation."

It is up to you to decide to whom the last item applies.

And I am, of course, only joking again. Uha, uha, uha!

***

ONCE in a while, this cute administration comes across an idea so exceptional, it takes the whole country by storm—or, more precisely, by water cannon.

I am again just joking—okay—because I really love the way this cute administration says "amen" to those who are praying for it through "prayer rallies."

In reality, the "prayer, er, rallyists" are not praying for this nasty but still cute administration, but for themselves.

And so, as an avid fan of the CPR, I must say to those "prayer rallyists" that if they think they can shame the fine men and women of this cute administration under the sly leadership of Gloriaetta, I say that those "prayer rallyists" should be prepared to take a shower with their clothes on.

CPR is the best thing that ever happened to this country since the invention of the torture chamber.

There, boss, remember me when the "emergency rule" comes, or whatever they will eventually call "martial law."

***

IF AND when that time comes, it will suddenly occur to me that this cute, lovely, honest, caring administration of Gloriaetta was merely the victim of popular unrest as a result of the "Hello Garci" scandal, and the repression that followed it.

By that time, in fact, I will think that everybody who has anything to do with this truthful, upright, reliable, cute administration, should become saints.

All right, so I am a coward, and I tremble in fear at the thought of another despotic regime in this country. So sue me.

Ha! Ha! I will gladly go to jail to defend this cute administration from "prayer rallyists," that misguided lot fighting for nothing but some dirty notions called truth, justice and freedom.

***

ONE RICH old man recently told me about his dream for this country. He talked of leadership, naturally, because all the progressive countries in our region have had good leaders.

In his dream, we finally had a straight leader, concerned about nothing else but ridding this country of poverty.

Such a leader can rub off his uprightness to the 100 most important people around him—okay, or her—telling them if they want to get rich under his (or her) leadership, they should go into business instead.

But if they want to help move this country forward, they can stay.

Those 100 people can then each influence 100 other people, bringing the circle of decency to 10,000 people right away.

Those 10,000 people, by swaying 100 people each, can put the number in the government to an amazing one million.

Does this cute administration figure in the dream? The old man simply smiled.

To the police and the military, just in case, he was also only kidding—okay!

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 17, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	12,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31	30.5	31	2,674,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	51.5	51	51	1,789,700
China Banking Corp.	610	610	600	600	1,040
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	260,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	47.5	48	47.5	48	24,300
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	17,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27	26.5	27	201,300
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	10,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	10,000
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	2,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	24.25	24.25	24	24	6,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	120,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2005	2010	2005	2010	140
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14	14	14	14,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	930,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	735	735	730	730	6,280
Ipeople Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	50,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.9	386,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1655	1660	1655	1660	32,560
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	14,200,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	17,600
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21.5	21	21.5	304,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	3,035,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	1,588,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	21,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.97	1	0.97	1	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	420,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	39,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.1	252,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,000,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	39,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34	34.5	34	34.5	582,900
Pancake House Inc.	2.2	2.38	2.2	2.38	179,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	64.5	65	19,700
San Miguel Corp. B	91.5	92.5	91.5	92.5	134,700
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	5,200
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	8,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	15,000,000
Ayala Corp.	287.5	290	287.5	290	43,560
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	40,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	117,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	9,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.16	2.16	190,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	2,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.73	0.75	0.73	0.75	920,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc	9.5	9.6	9.5	9.6	33,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	2,183,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	100,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.1	1,297,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.12	730,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5	5	5	5	63,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44	45	44	44	1,264,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	5,000,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	200,000
Ionics Inc	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	106,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.95	3.9	3.95	671,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	5,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.34	1,202,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	1,260,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	130,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	120,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	400,000
SM Investments Corp.	215	216	214	214	236,160
South China Resources Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	40,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.1	0.1	0.095	0.095	1,100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.16	100,000
Picop Resources Inc	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	500,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	320,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.46	1.48	493,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	150,000
Philippine Racing Club	3	3	3	3	1,912,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	33,000
ATS CORP. - Preferred	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	5,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	8.9	8.9	14,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.8	10,216,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	11,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.19	4,810,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	50,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	160,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.28	577,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.185	2,170,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	562,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	50,000
SM Development Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7,021,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	60,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.93	80,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	45,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.7	894,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.215	0.205	0.21	10,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	8,790,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	29,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	29,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	923,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	167,600
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	14,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	30,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	200,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.3	4.35	4.2	4.2	44,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.3	0.34	0.3	0.34	200,000

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From page B1

Telephone and ahead of a Supreme Court ruling on the new Value Added Tax (VAT) law, the centerpiece of the government's fiscal policy, dealers said.

They said fresh concerns over the VAT law, which has been held up by legal challenges from the opposition, combined with the likelihood of a further rise in interest rates managed to dampen sentiment.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 5.68 points to 1,947.46, trading between 1,941.48 and 1,953.14. Volume reached 306.55 million shares worth P741.26 million ($13.23 million).

Losers led gainers 40 to 18, with 55 stocks unchanged.

The peso was at 55.79 to the dollar in mid-day trade.

"There's a lot of hesitation in the market," said Jonathan Ravelas of Banco de Oro Universal Bank. "Investors are waiting for the court's ruling on the VAT."

The Supreme Court is expected Tuesday to rule on whether to lift a three-month old freeze order on the new VAT. *AFP*

DISCLOSURES

EEI Corp.'s executive committee was reorganized, with Perry Uy as committee chair and Roberto De Ocampo, Roberto Jose Castillo and Samson Lazo as members.

***

CHINATRUST (Philippines) Commercial Bank Corp. announced the resignation of Eric Chen and John Li as members of the board of directors. Chen assigned his one share in the bank to Steve Chou, while Li transferred his one share to William Hon.

***

ATR Kim Eng Financial Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 8, 7:30 a.m., at the 25th, 25/F Tower One and Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Nov. 4 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

PETROENERGY Resources Corp. director Yvonne Yuchengco sold 40,000 shares on Oct. 11 through RCBC Securities.

***

C & P Homes Inc. will hold a special meeting of stockholders on Nov. 14, 10 a.m., at the Italia Country Club, Capitoline Street, BF Resort Village, Talon Dos, Las Piñas City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 10 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by: Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

October 17, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.827404	1.000000	55.8440
Japan	Yen	0.007255	0.008768	0.4896
United Kingdom	Pound	1.464339	1.769800	98.8327
Hongkong	Dollar	0.106671	0.128922	7.1995
Switzerland	Franc	0.644647	0.779120	43.5092
Canada	Dollar	0.698113	0.843739	47.1178
Singapore	Dollar	0.490721	0.593085	33.1202
Australia	Dollar	0.622623	0.752502	42.0227
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.195228	2.653153	148.1627
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220576	0.266588	14.8873
Brunei	Dollar	0.489269	0.591331	33.0223
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000099	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020265	0.024492	1.3677
UAE	Dirham	0.225291	0.272287	15.2056
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.208600	67.4931
Argentina	Peso	0.277419	0.335289	18.7239
Brazil	Real	0.368308	0.445137	24.8582
Denmark	Kroner	0.133995	0.161946	9.0437
India	Rupee	0.018485	0.022341	1.2476
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.219279	0.265020	14.7998
Mexico	New Peso	0.075937	0.091778	5.1253
New Zealand	Dollar	0.575065	0.695024	38.8129
Norway	Kroner	0.127990	0.154689	8.6385
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013864	0.016756	0.9357
South Africa	Rand	0.126321	0.152672	8.5258
Korea	Won	0.000792	0.000957	0.0534
Sweden	Kroner	0.105750	0.127809	7.1374
Syria	Pound	0.015939	0.019264	1.0758
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024768	0.029935	1.6717

Let us spray

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

WHETHER BY DESIGN OR BY accident, an appalling incident took place on Saturday. A purely religious group was soaked by water cannons causing a mass exodus. Three bishops got a *jueteng* they didn't expect and two were canonized about 20 years prematurely. Apparently, a policeman received a call to fire on the crowd and did so, singing Hose Anna, Hose Anna. In the ensuing chaos, two priests were defrocked, some infidels baptized, and the nuns retreated out of habit.

Even the Virgin Mary got sprinkled, which must be a 'statuetory' offense. The church was incensed. The commander denied giving the order but accepted responsibility. Because the Mendiola Bridge spans an *ilong*, the length of the procession appeared 'ilongated.' Some monky business suggests that the order came from Garci. The palace denied involvement and said it was a clerical error.

The weekend before last, I became extremely breathless and checked myself into the hospital. An X-ray showed fluid in my left lung so my cold had turned into pneumonia. The doctor gives me antibiotics and steroids, which have terrible side effects. My biceps and triceps turned into forceps and I was twice mistaken for Mike Tyson. Eventually, I recovered but last Friday, it happened again. I called the business editor and told him I had trouble breathing and he told me to take Viagra. Puzzled, I called his assistant, Amy, and she said, "It's your British accent. He thought you had trouble breeding."

I would kill to win the Nobel peace prize.

Well, there's not much to write about the stock market. It remains lifeless with the Phisix just moving sideways for the past fortnight. Actually, this is relatively strong because the Dow, the Nasdaq and the S&P 500 are all at 5-month lows. Since Wall Street is so important, all European markets and most Asian markets have been extremely weak, together with their currencies.

The pound has fallen from a high of 108 to 98 and the euro has performed even worse because nobody won a clear majority in the German elections. The Indonesian rupiah hit a 4-year low until Bank Indonesia raised the rate 3 times to 11 percent. The South Korean won and the Taiwan dollar have been very weak. By comparison, the peso has been steady at around 56 and bond yields actually declined slightly last week and again yesterday.

The relative strength of the Phisix and the peso are due to the creation of two new indexes. The Asean 180 has 12 Filipino stocks, all the leaders, while the Asean 40 has just TEL. Three brokers are having a road show on Asia and they have to invest the funds in the proportions designated by the indexes. As J.P. Morgan is relatively a newcomer, it has been buying large amounts of Asian stocks, including our own. That is why our market has been so resilient.

In the case of other brokers, most have been transferring Filipino stocks out of old funds into the new ones. This is known as crossing or making cross sales. Apart from increasing turnover, they are irrelevant, as they are purely internal transactions. One day last week, gross turnover was P1.2 billion but P600 million was cross sales and P354 million a block sale of TEL worth P354 million. Excluding these, net turnover is usually only P250-P300 million a day. Last Friday, gross turnover was a healthy P1.5 billion but there were more crosses in the stock market that you would find in a cemetery.

The third quarter results are due shortly and remembering that the economy grew last year by 6.1 percent, there should be enough momentum to produce good results. So there has been some buying in anticipation, e.g. ALI and TEL. However, do not get carried away because it is usually correct to BUY 2 to 3 weeks ahead of results and SELL just before. This works 90 percent of the time and is worth remembering.

For example, in Wall Street, APPLE produced profits more than 4 times the previous quarter and the shares fell 4.5 percent. AMD, second largest manufacturer of computer chips, beat analyst' estimates and dropped 12 percent. Investors tend to take a bull position ahead of results so that when they are announced, there are no buyers left, only sellers waiting to get out.

Greenspan, who is unfortunately retiring next month, is more worried about inflation that the short-term impact of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Consumer Price Index for September rose by a horrific 1.2 perdent, the highest figure since 1991. However, after removing fuel and food, it was a tame 0.1 percent Nevertheless, the huge rise in the price of crude oil and the even bigger rise in the price of natural gas threaten to inject inflation into the economy next year, so the US Fed keeps hiking rates. Our central bank will probably follow suit once more.

Looking ahead, the outlook for our local market does not look promising. Our imports have been low these past six months and this indicates that our exports will also be low going forward. In July, export rose 11.6 perent; in August by, only 0.8 percent. The ADB estimates that GDP for this year will be 4.7 percent, well below government estimates, and for next year, only 4.5 percent. Record remittances have been holding up the peso.

We are awaiting the Supreme Court's final decision on the legality of the E-VAT bill. More to the point, we are waiting to see whether Congress will pass it or defer it until next June. We are also awaiting a decision on Executive Order No. 464 as this greatly affects the function of the Senate. In the meantime, investors sit on the sidelines.

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Aug. loan growth slowest this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

LENDING BY THE COUNTRY'S commercial banks went up by 3.3 percent in August to about P1.56 trillion from year-ago level on strong demand from the manufacturing industry, and the financial institutions, real estate and business services sectors (Firebs).

It was the slowest loan expansion seen since the start of the year, as year-on-year growth even hit more than 6 percent in May and June.

But Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said that compared to a month ago, commercial bank loans even rose by 0.8 percent, a reversal of the 3 percent contraction in July.

Loans to Firebs remained the driver of the lending expansion, contributing more than half of the 3.3 percent annual lending growth during the period.

Lending to the manufacturing sector posted a modest 0.33 percent growth. The sector gobbled up about a fourth of total funds disbursed by commercial banks.

"The moderate expansion in bank lending for the months of July and August could be indicative of the moderate growth in real sector activity in the third quarter," Tetangco said.

Political uncertainties in the country intensified in July following the suspension of the expanded value added tax law's implementation and the resignation of key government economic managers.

Napocor to reduce dependence on oil

By Abigail L. Ho

AS WORLD OIL PRICES REMAIN high and very volatile, National Power Corp. aims to bring down its dependence on oil-based power plants to only 4.9 percent next year from this year's 10.8 percent.

In a recent presentation, Napocor vice president for logistics Juan Carlos Guadarrama said that of the state firm's estimated grid-based gross generation of 60,550 gigawatt-hours (GWh) next year, less than 5 percent, or only 2,980 GWh, would come from oil-based plants.

Natural gas-fired plants would account for the biggest chunk of the generation mix at 36.6 percent or 22,146.8 GWh, followed by coal-fed plants at 25.3 percent or 15,307.8 GWh.

Geothermal power facilities will contribute 19.8 percent to the mix with 11,972.7 GWh, while hydropower plants will generate the remaining 13.4 percent of the mix at 8,142.7 GWh.

For this year, natural gas-fired plants would also be the biggest contributor to the mix at 32.1 percent or 18,872 GWh, followed by coal at 26 percent or 15,307 GWh, geothermal at 17.4 percent or 10,237 GWh, and hydro at 13.7 percent or 8,095 GWh.

Oil-based plants is expected to contribute only 6,369 GWh or 10.8 percent to the mix this year.

He noted that in 2002 and 2003, oil-based plants accounted for 13 percent and 13.5 percent of Napocor's generation mix.

BSP, Bank of Korea sign $1.5-B currency swap deal

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas yesterday signed a fresh $1.5-billion bilateral currency swap arrangement with the Bank of Korea as a buffer against sharp reversal in foreign capital flows in the region.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said the swap, which would be effective for the next two years starting Oct. 17 , was a continuation of the mutual currency support program under the Chiang Mai initiative.

The BSP had a previous three-year currency swap deal with the Bank of Korea worth $1 billion that lapsed last Aug.8.

"The new bilateral swap arrangement between the BSP and the Bank of Korea signals the continued solidarity of the Asean plus 3 member-countries in promoting regional stability," Tetangco said.

The increase in size, he added, would immediately provide balance of payments and short-term liquidity support when need arises.

The scheme allows the two countries to swap their currencies for US dollars worth up to $1.5 billion in cases of emergency.

He said the new swap deal contained the measures taken by the Asean plus 3 to boost the effectiveness of the Chiang Mai initiative during a meeting in Istanbul early this year.

For instance, the amount of the swap without International Monetary Fund support financing was increased from 10 to 20 percent.

Doris C. Dumlao

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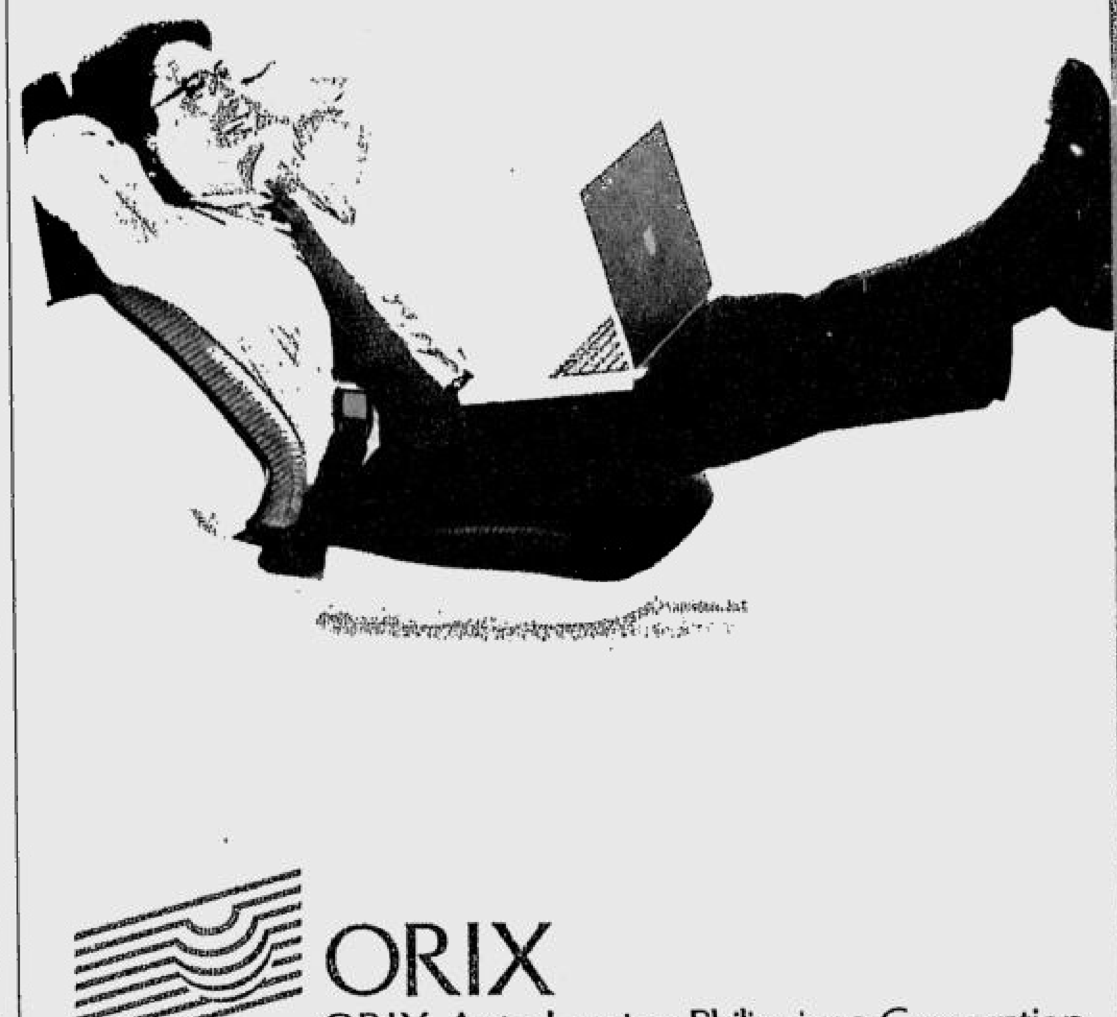

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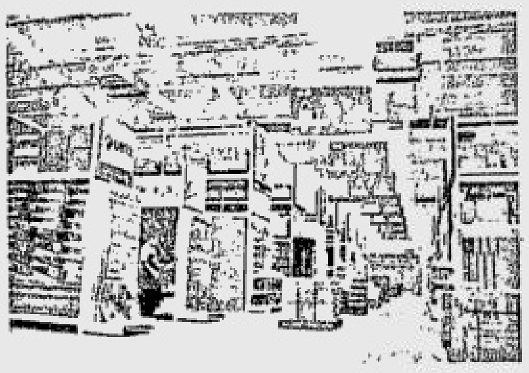
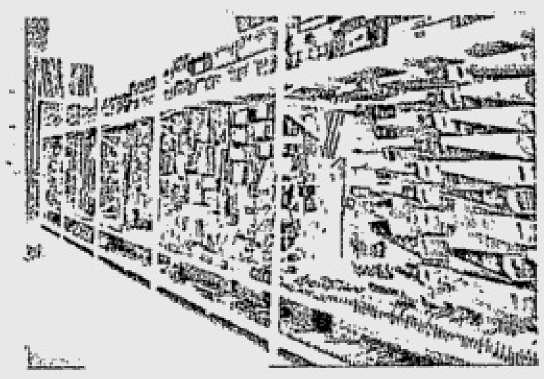
WESTGATE ALABANG HOME

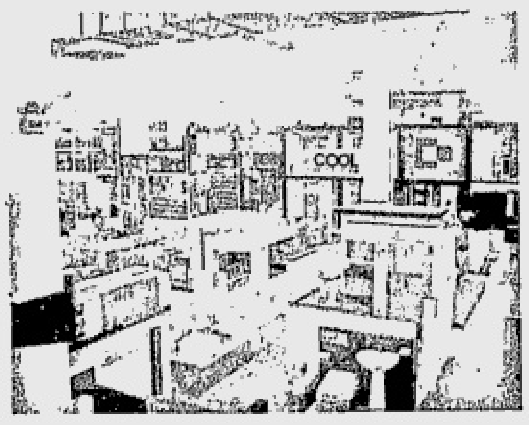
From the same group that introduced the Ortigas Home Depot, the Home Depot Group launches its Westgate Alabang Home Depot. This is the fourth home depot after Cebu Home and Builders in Cebu City, Mactan Home and Builders in Mactan, Cebu and recently, the Ortigas Home Depot located in Julia Vargas Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

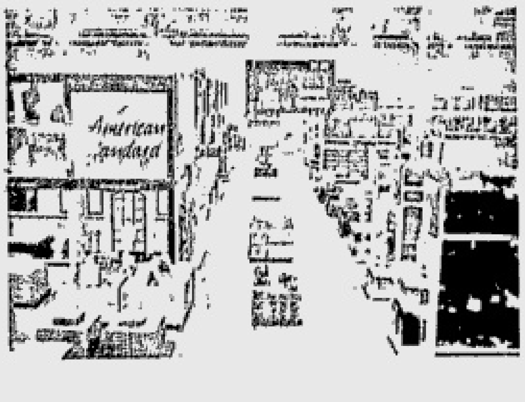


The opening of the Alabang branch is aimed at servicing homeowners living in the South making it more easily accessible to their home interior and construction needs.



Built on a sprawling 11,000 sq. meter lot, the Westgate Alabang Home Depot - is a twin-level, fully enclosed and well-ventilated edifice that is the perfect place to shop for all your home interior and construction needs --- Architectural Hardware, Artificial Stone Products, Appliances / Generators / Houseware; Blinds and Curtains, Fabrics and Upholstery; Board and Ceiling Products, Ceramic Tiles, Doors and Door Systems, Furniture - Office, Residential and Commercial; Glass and Aluminum Products; Kitchen and Bedroom Cabinet Systems / Accessories; Landscaping; Laminated and Natural Wood Flooring Systems; Lightings and Electrical Fixtures; Lumber and Wood Products; Marble, Granite and other Natural Stones; Roofing and Insulation; Paint and Paint Sundries; Plumbing Fixtures and Fittings, Pumps; Pet Sundries; Plastic Laminates; Pre-cast Systems and Security Systems.





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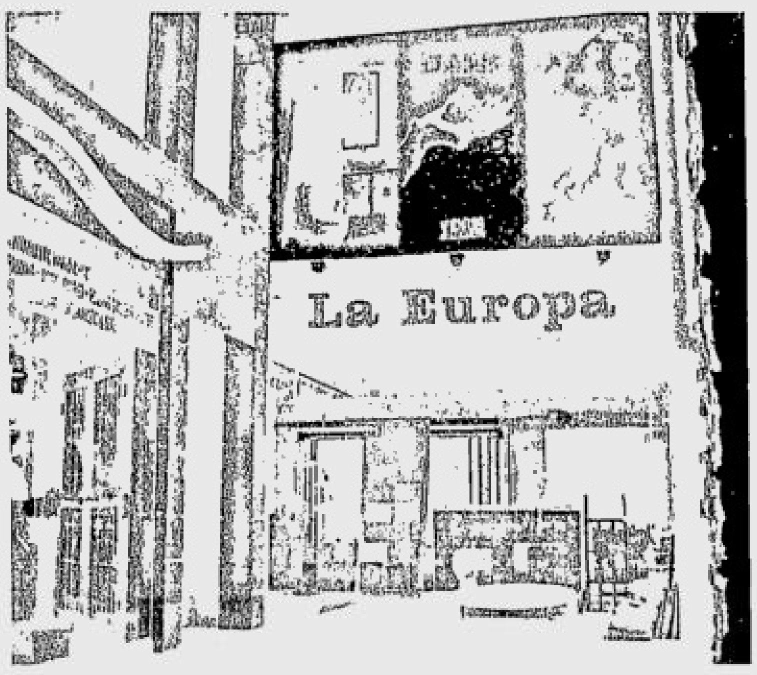
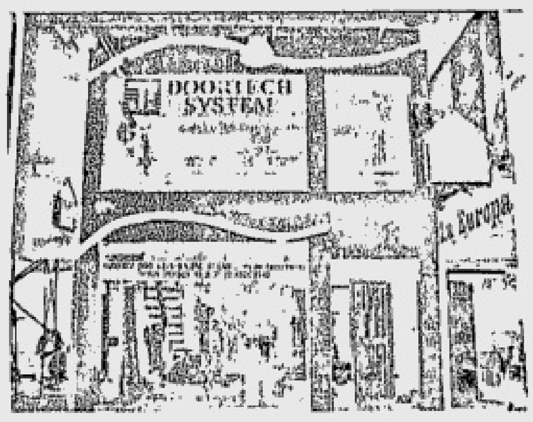
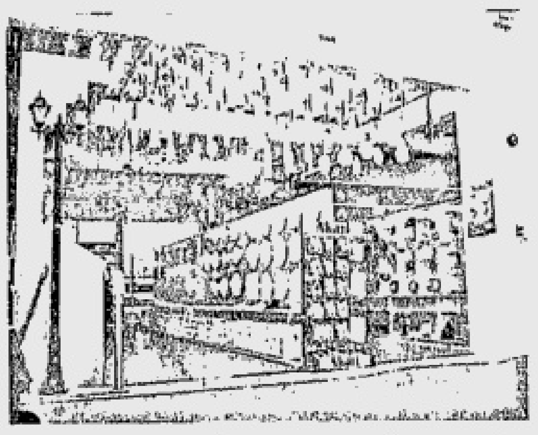
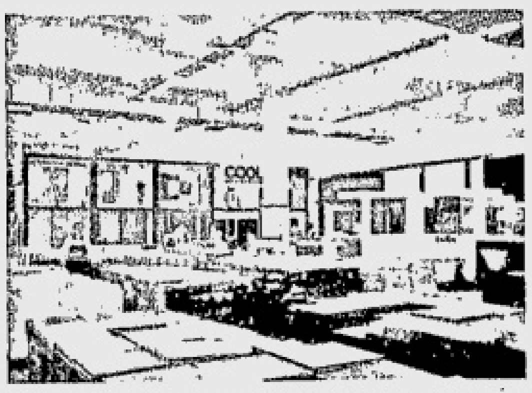




The Westgate Alabang Home Depot is the owned and operated by CW South Builders Development Corporation, a joint venture of Cebu Overseas Hardware Co., Inc. and West Point Industrial Co. With over 50 years experience in hardware and construction requirements, this is the second home depot project of Cebu Overseas Hardware Co. in Metro Manila after establishing the Cebu Home Builders Depot in Cebu City. The company is also behind the successful launching of Living 'n Style Home Finishing Center located along Chino Roces Avenue in Makati. West Point Industrial West Point Industrial Sales Co., Inc. has a 12-year impressive record in importation and wholesale of industrial and construction materials with superior, high quality product lines. Come and shop at the fully air-conditioned Westgate Alabang Home Depot - the newest and most convenient center for construction and interior needs, where it has everything you need to build your ideal home under one roof, and that includes the roof.





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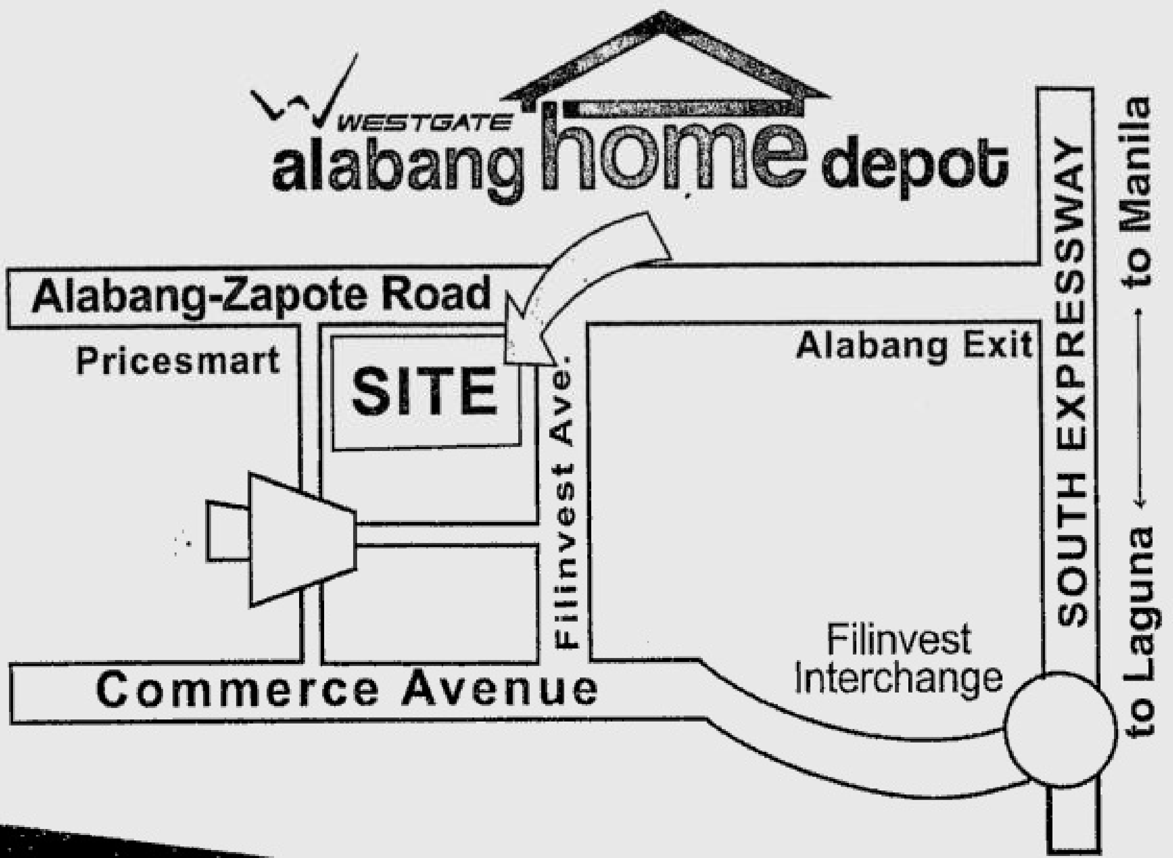

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BUSHES .DCTOR 524-3197 0919-3227420

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

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02 CRV PRICE 685TH T-8990215

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Affordable Rent a Car Hiace, Vios, Corolla Low Rates 0920-9518097

CAR VANS 929-2811

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P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

RENT A VAN 0917-5444721 / 6424405

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BUYING USED CAR T-8990215

CAR LOAN

1% Auto Easy 5344441

1% AUTOLOAN 788-0361

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1% Car Lending 656-0140 United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% w/out taking car 7262780

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% ABC Car Line 5221001

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3550974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8966530/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

PCCI
Special General Meeting of Voting Members
2:00 P.M.
November 21, 2005
Sulo Hotel, Quezon City
Deadline for Submission Of Proxies 5:00 P.M. November 15, 2005 at the PCCI Office

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST! MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MAXIMO U. MERCADO has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 269, Page No. 55, Book No. II, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Ma. Luz Victoria A. Ballesteros of Makati City.
(PDI-October 4, 11 & 18, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Buy/Invest California Forclosures MrNelsonmanlis@AOL.com 12%/mo

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RETIRE 2YRS 09186051567

RTW CONSIGN 0917-8830002

"LOOKING FOR A PART TIME BUSINESS" Earn up to P20k/mo 376-2644 & 42

BUSINESS FOR SALE

PARES MAMI HAUS + CMPTR SHP SPCE 3748626

NATIONAL FOOD AUTORITY
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII
PAWING, PALO, LEYTE
Tel. Nos. (053-323-3075, 323-3084)
FAX. NO. 053-323-3061

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR GRAINS HAULING/TRUCKING SERVICES FOR NFA, REGION VIII

The National Food Authority, Regional Office VIII, Pawing, Palo, Leyte invites qualified grains hauling/trucking service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for provision of hauling/trucking for the Calendar Year 2006 in the transfer of stocks from source to its identified NFA Warehouse with their Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) as follows:

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) Secretariat after payment of a non-transferable/non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos Only (P3,000.00).

Lot No.	Province	Source of Stocks	Destination	Min. No. Of Trucks Req'd	Estd Vol. Bags of 50 kg	Rate Per Bag of 50 kg	Approved Budget for the Contract(P)
1	N. Leyte	Tac. Port	Port Area	8 (10Wheelers)	120,000	4.80	576,000.00
			Alangalang		300,000	6.76	2,028,000.00
			Maasin		5,000	34.35	171,750.00
			Guiuan		5,000	28.45	142,250.00
		Alangalang	Naval		5,000	22.48	112,400.00
			Ormoc		2,000	18.77	37,540.00
			TOTAL		437,000		3,067,940.00
2	S. Leyte	Maasin Port	NFA Maasin	4 (6Wheelers)	80,000	4.80	384,000.00
		Maasin Whse	NFA Baybay		1,200	18.19	21,828.00
		Baybay Port	NFA Baybay		40,000	4.80	192,000.00
			TOTAL		121,200		597,828.00
3	Biliran	Naval Port	NFA Naval	3 (6Wheelers)	100,000	4.80	480,000.00
4	W. Samar	Calbalogan Port	Calb. Whse	3 (10Wheelers)	145,000	4.80	696,000.00
		Calb. Whse	Calbayog Whse	2 (6Wheelers)	4,800	15.99	76,752.00
			OrasWhse E.S.		60,000	23.10	1,386,000.00
		Calbayog Port	Calbayog Whse		145,000	4.80	696,000.00
			TOTAL		354,800		2,854,752.00
5	N. Samar	Sn Jose Port	Bobon Whse	2 (10Wheelers)	70,000	4.80	336,000.00
			Rawis Whse	3 (6Wheelers)	90,000	14.60	1,314,000.00
			Calubig Whse		35,000	19.46	681,100.00
			Victoria Whse		15,000	8.46	126,900.00
			TOTAL		210,000		2,458,000.00
6	E. Samar	Borongan Port	Borongan Whse	3 (10Wheelers)	110,00	4.80	528,000.00
		Borongan Whse	Oras Whse	2 (6Wheelers)	2,400	17.82	42,768.00
		Guiuan Port	Guiuan Whse		90,000	4.80	432,000.00
			Borongan Whse		2,400	21.78	52,272.00
			TOTAL		204,800		1,055,040.00
			CUM TOTAL				10,513,560.00

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date
Issuance of Registration, Eligibility & Bid Documents	Oct. 19-28, 2005 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm)
Deadline for Submission of Required Registration & Eligibility Documents	Nov. 3, 2005 (5:00 pm)
Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Notice of Eligibility	Nov. 10, 2005 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm)
Pre-Bidding Conference (NFA-RO8 Conference Rm)	Nov. 11, 2005 (2:00 pm)
Submission and Opening of Bids (NFA-RO8 Conference Rm)	Nov. 23, 2005 (9:30 am)

Interested bidder should at least meet the minimum requirement of TH trucks as required per province. In case bidder does not meet the required minimum number of units of TH trucks, NFA may accept back-to-back Letter Agreement with other TH owners/operators to be listed under the bidder's fleet.

A Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued by the Prospective bidder owner (for sole Proprietorship) and/or Resolution from the Board authorizing their representative (for Corporations) to purchase the bid documents, to sign for and in behalf of the owner/corporation whatever documents relative to the bidding and to attend the pre-bidding conference and during the opening of the bids shall be required.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids thereof, to waive any formalities or defects found therein, or to accept such bids or award to any Contractor whose Bid is considered most advantageous to the National Food Authority or to the government.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO J. ADORABLE**
Asst. Regional Manager/
Chairman-RBAC, NFA-RO8

(PDI--Oct. 18 & 24, 2005)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Supply of Services thru outsourcing of the following positions: 1) Thirty-One (31) Data Encoders and One (1) General Clerk 2) Seventeen (17) Skilled worker
Approved Budget for the Contract	1) P2,600,000.00 or 10,000.00/ month/personnel 2) P2,296,434.12 or P11,257.03/ month/personnel
Contract Duration	Per BSP Terms of Reference

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	11 October 2005 to 27 October 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference	28 October 2005, 10:00 AM
3. Opening of Bids	08 November 2005, 2:00 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods
5. Post-qualification	allowed in the implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)
6. Notice of Award	A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 0.05% of the ABC for each item to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 18, 2005)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE
HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
MATRIMONIAL CAUSES
NO. 4567 OF 2004

BETWEEN
SORIANO ANNA KARENINA R. Petitioner
and
FRANCISCO GLENN A. Respondent

NOTICE

A DIVORCE PETITION HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST THE UNDERMENTIONED:

The Respondent, FRANCISCO GLENN A., who may apply to the Family Court Registry at M2, Wanchai Law Courts, Wanchai Tower, No. 12 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong for a copy of the divorce petition. If within one month he has not communicated with the Registry, the Court may hear the case in his absence.

Registrar

(PDI - Oct. 18, 2005)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

BOOKKEEPER
Computer Literate
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MALE/FEMALE

B.S.E major in Music, P.E., History & English Tel. Nos. 926-5049/ 926-3930 / 926-3031

CALL POEA
24-HOUR HOTLINES
722-1144
or
722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bldg. #6, SAN LAZARO COMPOUND, RIZAL AVENUE
STA. CRUZ, 1003, MANILA, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (632) 743-8301 LOCAL 1650-1652; Web address: www.doh.gov.ph

October 06, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The *Department of Health (DOH)*, through the *Government of the Philippines invites consulting firms to participate in the selection of Firms for the following. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.*

No.	PROJECT	ABC	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS
1	Audio Visual Documentation of Selected Functional-inter-Local Health (IFB-CS-GOP-2005-17)	Php 1,000,000.00	Php 500.00

2. The *DOH* now calls for the submission of *Letters of Intent (LOI)* from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and shortlisting for the *above consulting service*. Interested consultants must submit their LOIs on or before October 21, 2005 at 5:00 PM at the *address indicated below* and secure the Eligibility Documents there from or may be downloaded from the DOH website (www.doh.gov.ph). Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished eligibility documents shall be on October 28, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at *the COBAC Conference Room*. Only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.
3. The COBAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted *LOIs* and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The short list of prospective bidders shall consist of *three (3) to seven (7)* consultants. The criteria and rating system for short listing are applicable experience (40%), qualification of personnel (40%) and current workload (20%).
4. *LOIs* must be delivered by hand, through mail, or facsimile to the address below at *9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.* on or before *October 21, 2005*
5. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184 only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the eligibility documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

   The DOH shall evaluate bids using the *Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) with 60/40 weight in favor of Technical Evaluation.*
6. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the *COBAC Secretariat: Ms. Conoy Liberan/Ms. Debbie Rabi* at the address given below from *10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*
7. The contracts shall be completed within a *maximum period of six (6) months.*
8. The *Department of Health* reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

   Contact Info:
   Ms. Concepcion S. Liberan/Ms. Debbie A. Rabi, COBAC Secretariat
   Address: 3/F Building 6, DOH, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
   Tel. No.: 743-8301 local 1650 - 1652
   E-mail Address. csliberan@co.doh.gov.ph / darabi@doh.gov.ph
   Fax No.: 741-9775
   Website. www.doh.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI - October 14 & 18, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City
Tel. No. (062) 992-7763

SF-GOOD-05

REF. No. CL-05-10-0378

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *City Government of Zamboanga*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of Contract	*Location/ Office*	*Brief Description*	*Approved Budget for the Contract*	*Contract Duration/ P.R. No.*	*Delivery Period*
1. Other Supplies	CPSO	Wheeled Refused Bins w/ Lid Cover	2,256,000.00	100-05-10-2442	25wd
2 Drugs and Medicines	Stocks-CGSO -Stocks- CM Paragas	Amoxicillin, Cefalexin etc.	310,480.00 1,163,540.00 1,474,020.00	100-05-09-1993 100-05-09-1994	15wd

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities as follows:

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 19 - Nov 2, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference wil be conducted at City Budget Office, City Hall, Zamboanga City	October 21, 2005
3. Opening of Bids	November 3, 2005
4. Bid Evaluation	November 3, 2005
5. Post-qualification	November 3, 2005
6. Notice of Award	November 7, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P900.00 item no. 1, P600.00 item no. 2, to the City Treasurer.

The City Government of Zamboanga assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by

(Sgd.) **VIRGINIA SAN AGUSTIN GARA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 18 & 24, 2005)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
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☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
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☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

Memories Expo: An Expo for the Death Care Industry

AS ALL SOULS DAY NEARLY APPROACHES, the Philippine Daily Inquirer together with the City Government of Manila presents the "Memories Expo," an exhibit specially organized to bring together different products and services related to the death care industry. The event is organized to coincide with the publication of Memories Supplement. The expo will feature different companies and showcase their services to the public from funeral parlors, pre-need plans, florists, grief counseling, columbarium, memorial parks, catering, NGOs and suppliers from candles, coffins, tombstones, urns, etc. We invite everyone to visit the exhibitor's booths and get to know the latest trends and information. This two day event shall be held on October 25 and 26 at the Bonifacio Shrine (beside Manila City Hall).

For inquiries, call Ms. Dhel Mendoza at 912-9008, 421-1420, 421-0343.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

44th Death Anniversary
of the
LATE PRESIDENT

SERGIO OSMEÑA, SR.

(1878 - 1961)

Masses will be offered at the following Churches
on 19 October 2005:

Malate Catholic Church	*Malate, Manila*	6:00 PM
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish	*Ermita, Metro Manila*	6:30 AM
Santuario de San Antonio Parish	*Forbes Park, Makati City*	7:30 AM
Sto. Niño de Paz	*Greenbelt Chapel, Ayala Center, Makati City*	5:45 PM
Basilica Minore of Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral	*Malolos City, Bulacan*	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Barasoain	*Malolos City, Bulacan*	6:00 AM
Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag	*Pangasinan*	6:00 AM
Basilica del Sto. Niño	*Magallanes St., Cebu City*	6:00 AM
Redemptorist Church	*Cebu City*	6:00 AM
Sto. Rosario Parish	*P. del Rosario St., Cebu City*	6:30 AM
Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral	*Cebu City*	6:30 AM
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish	*Cebu City*	5:30 PM
St. Therese Parish	*Lahug, Cebu City*	6:00 PM
San Roque Parish Church	*Wireless Mandaue City*	6:00 PM

Readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain."
Philippians 1:21

BENJAMIN DOMINGO TEODORO

Managing Partner of Guzman, Bocaling & Co.

Returned to his Creator on October 14, 2005
at the age of 81.

He is survived by his loving wife: **Lydia**

His children: **Benjamin, Jr.** and **Marisol**, **Dinah Leah** and **Levi Roy Dirilo**, **Miriam Ruth** and **Camilo Bernardo**, **Christian Nathaniel** and **Lisa**, **Rachel Lydia** and **Ariel Santamaria**, and **Dorcas Abigail**

His grandchildren: **Samuel Benjamin Teodoro**; **Moses Benjamin**, **Sarah Abigail**, **Hannah Lydia** and **Jeriah Daniel Bernardo**; **Daniel**, **Nicholas** and **Caleb**; and **Azilea Ruth** and **Keziah Lydia Santamaria**

His brothers: **Elias**, **Julio Jr.** and **Eliza**, **Guillermo** and **Martha**, and **Solomon** and **Procesa**

His remains lie in state at J&A Teodoro Memorial Church (Matang Tubig Unida Church) Santos Teodoro St. corner Rizal Avenue Extension, Tondo, Manila.

Interment will be on October 19, 2005 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. service at the J&A Teodoro Memorial Church.

"Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her,
May she rest in Peace" **John 11:25**

GUADALUPE DE JESUS LAYOSA

of Gasan, Marinduque

peacefully joined our Lord
and her husband, ***Pastor M. Layosa***
on October 16, 2005 at the age of 100.

Her bereaved children **Helen** and **Ramon Valmayor**, **Jaime** (†) and **Lydia Querubin**, **Linda**, **Ramon** and **Evelyn Lejano** and **Ernesto** (†) and **Freda Fernandez**; grandchildren and great grandchildren and other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at
Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque
after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on
Wednesday, October 19, 2005.

MANUEL "JUN" P. ELEPAÑO, JR.

Born on October 29, 1938 in Manila

passed away at age 66 on Monday, October 10th, 2005
at Daly City, California USA.

He is survived by his loving wife **Rosario Lopez Elepaño**; children **Manuel III** and **Ma. Luisa Elepaño**, **Rosario** and **Joel Argonza**; grandchildren **Julian** and **Jaime**; and brother **Virgilio**.

Viewing will be at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Montserrat Chapel on Wednesday and Thursday. Interment will be held at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat on Friday, October 21, 2005.

ARCH. SALUD CRUZ ORA

of Lopez, Quezon

(Retired Professor of National University and University of the East)

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 16, 2005

She is survived by her only daughter **Mary Ruth**, son-in-law **Nestor Dacanay**; and her grandson **Nicholo Rainier**; her sisters **Angelina Laig**, **Wilhelmina Bloemen** and brother **Benjamin**.

Her remains lie in state at Imperial Chapel of La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 22, 2005 at the North Cemetery, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

Tel. Nos. 712-3001 • 743-6502
Manila 711-6931 to 35

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
Jacinta T. Manalang	Chapel A-2, Q.C.	10/19/05; 9:00 a.m.	Loyola Mem. Park Mkna.
Elena T. vda de Remigio	Chapel B-5, Q.C.	10/18/05; 8:00 a.m.	North Cemetery
Jose B. Chan	Family Residence	10/22/05; 2:00 p.m.	La Loma Cemetery

---

"For God
so loved the
world, that He
gave His only
begotten Son,
that whoever
believes in
Him shall not
perish but have
everlasting
life."
John 3:16

FLORANTE "Dante" F. NIÑO

July 26, 1943 - October 16, 2005

Peacefully joined his Creator
on the 16th day of October 2005 at the age of 62.

His bereaved children: **Dan Patrick & Jackie, Daisy, Dante;** grandchildren: **Matthew Alfonso, Samantha Danis, Saji Dominik & Sabin Danil Niño**, sister: **Violeta N. Mendoza**, stepmother: **Mary Niño**, brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces and all other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Molave Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

VIRGINIA PEREZ-DE LA CRUZ

(18 May 1923 – 16 October 2005)

went to join ***Maximino****, daughter* ***Anna Belinda***
and granddaughter ***Leah Carissa***
in the House of the Lord, on Sunday, 16 October 2005

Her remains lie in state at the:

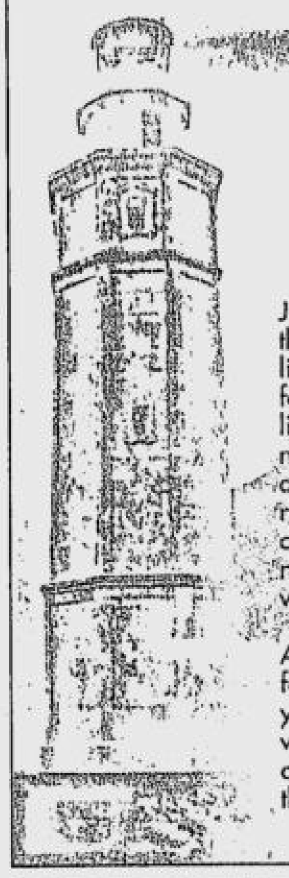
Funeraria Paz (Luna Chapel)
Manila Memorial Park – Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

There will be Masses at 8:00 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, 17-18 October 2005, prior to cremation on Wednesday morning.

A final Necrological Mass will be said on Wednesday, 19 October 2005, also at 8:00 p.m.

Interment of her ashes will be on Thursday, 20 October 2005, in Batangas City.

Please join her children **Bertie** and **Fe**, **Myra** and **Bobby**, **Pocholo** and **Lilibeth**, **Melissa** and **Vic**, **Melanie** and **Tony**, and grandchildren **Monica** and **Nicky**, **Paulo** and **Tricia**, **Misha** and **Anton**, **Alyssa**, **Andrew** and **Robby**, her sister **Belen** and her sisters-in-law, **Corazon** and **Rustica** in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.



Just minutes away from Cebu City, there's an old lighthouse that's been literally drawing ships and good fortune to Cebu. Soon, that same lighthouse will be drawing good neighbors to it as well. Because around that century-old beacon will rise a premier seaside community, one of only a handful of neighborhoods around the world with its own functioning lighthouse.

Aptly named after the Spanish word for mooring rope, Amara will be your family's haven, a safe harbor where your loved ones can bloom and grow, surrounded by nature and the values that nurture families.

Coffee, tea or sea.

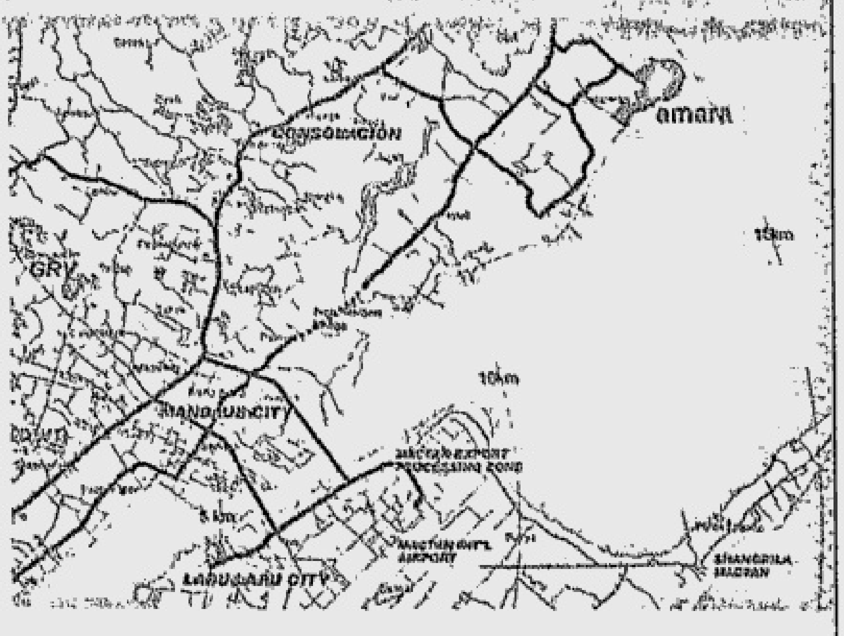
Already blessed by nature, Amara will likewise benefit from master planning by Ayala Land, one of the country's most prestigious and reputable developers.

An Esplanade will wind its way round the community to give everyone an unobstructed view of the sea. Amara will be dotted with gazebos, parks and playgrounds. And its centerpiece clubhouse will have an infinity pool, seaside decks and a beach bar to take in as much of the sea's majesty as possible.

Future phases will also feature a sports and recreational center with not just the usual amenities but also a beach volleyball court and a gym facing a spectacular view. There will be the North Pier with a promenade and fishing deck, the South Beach Park and picnic grounds, a retail strip, and a school.

Know always where home is.

Know that Amara's constant light is your guide home. Awake every morning renewed by the sea. Watch the sparkle of stars and distant ships when evening falls. Know always that the light that has beckoned ships home to port for the last hundred years now also lights your way to haven, harbor, and home.



A joint venture of:

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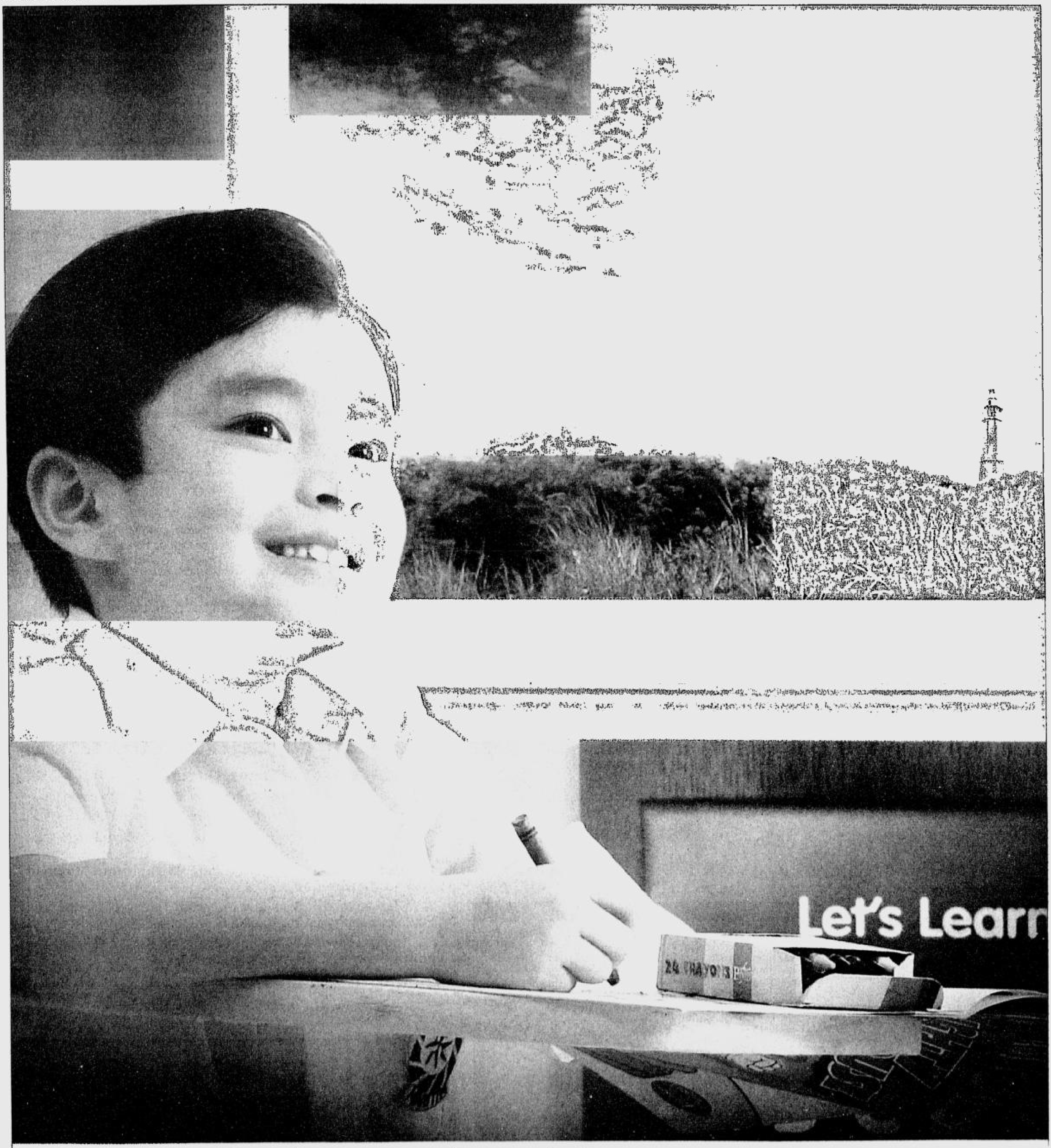

Know always where the light glows warmest and brightest.

A lighthouse is probably one of the most welcoming and reassuring sights to sailors. For then it would mean they were safe and near home, even family. Amara, a seaside residential haven, boasts of having a century-old lighthouse within a master-planned community. It is the first in the country and one of very few in the world.

With the bountiful sea in front and Cebu's mountains protecting its back, Amara is envisioned to make the most of its topography. A winding Esplanade and seaside decks provide exciting footpaths leading to the clubhouse, with its centerpiece infinity pool and beach bar. Future phases include a sports and recreation center, a beach park with playground and picnic area, a pier with fishing deck and other amenities for everyone in the family, especially the little ones.

And since it's a premier Ayala Community, you can be sure Amara will be a safe and happy environment for your children, where hugs are warmest, and smiles brightest.

Amara™

An AYALA Community

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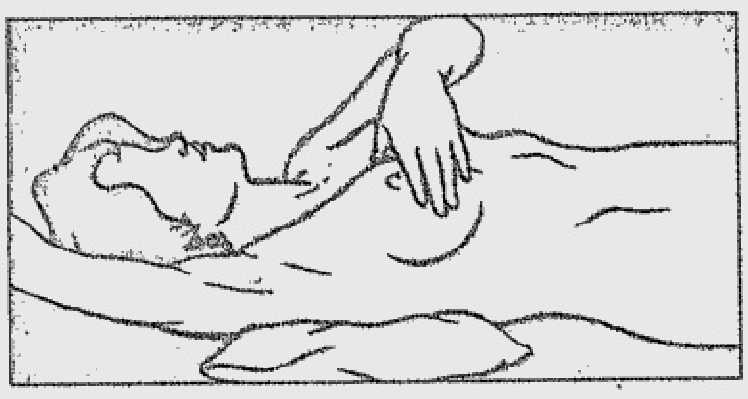


THE PHILIPPINE WACOAL CORP. (PWC) and the Philippine Foundation for Breast Care, Inc., (PFBCI) conducted a seminar on breast cancer awareness recently at the Ateneo Professional School in Rockwell, Makati City. The seminar will continue 2-5 p.m., Oct. 22, and 9 a.m.-12 noon, Oct. 29. Admission is free.

During the seminar, which was facilitated by image expert Abbygale Arenas-de Leon, part of the observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October, participants were urged to: Be aware. Be informed. Keep abreast.

According to the World Health Organization, the Philippines has the highest incidence of breast cancer in Asia.

Dr. Tina Santos, co-founder and president of PFBCI, stressed the importance of early detection for the successful treatment of breast cancer. Women, as early as age 20, should conduct breast self-examination once a month. Unusual lumps, visible change in breast and nipple appearance and bloody or clear discharge from the nipple, are some indications of breast cancer.

Women are also encouraged to visit the doctor for clinical breast examination from every six months to three years.

Toshihisa Tanaka, chief executive officer of PWC, said the Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign was a significant move to help every woman pursue beauty.

PWC and PFBCI share the following clip-worthy facts about breast cancer with our readers.

Guidelines for early detection

Take monthly breast self-examination (BSE) seriously.

BSE is breast self-awareness. Starting at age 20, it is advisable to perform BSE on day seven to 10, starting from the first day of menstruation. Menopausal women should do it one day a month. Women with breast implants, are pregnant or breast-feeding should also perform BSE.

Perform a proper BSE.

- Lie down flat. Place pillow under right shoulder. Place right arm behind head.
- Use the three fingertips of left hand to feel for mass on right breast.
- Press firmly to know how your breast feels. Talk to your doctor if you are not sure on how hard to press.
- Move your fingers around the breast in a circular, up-and-down line, or wedge pattern. Do it the same way every time. Check the entire breast area up to the armpit. Remember how your breast feels from month to month.
- Repeat process on your left breast.

Seek clinical breast exam (CBE) periodically.

CBE is done by a doctor and should be part of a periodic health exam.

For non-high risk women:
- 20-30 years old: every three years
- 40 years old: every year

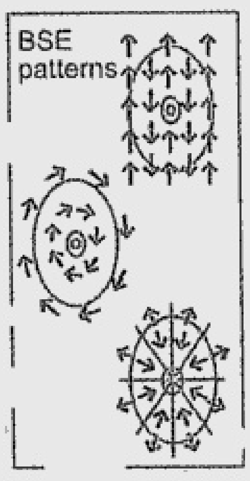
For high risk women:
- 20-35 years old: every six to 12 months
- 35 years old and above: every three to six months, or as advised by doctor

Submit yourself to screening mammography.

The examination is the best method to find early breast changes.

For non high-risk:
- 50 years old: every year

For high risk:
- Baseline mammogram at age 35, then every one to two years thereafter

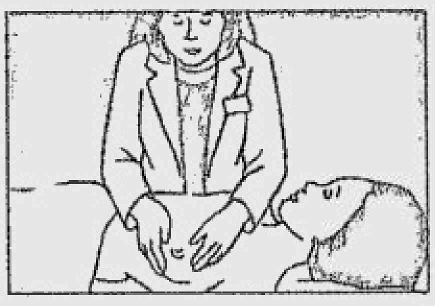


Benefits of mammography

- Early diagnosis means early treatment resulting in more lives saved.
- Early detection of breast cancer improves chances of survival
- Early diagnosis means better quality of life because it reduces the need for radical treatment.

The Breast Cancer Awareness seminar will continue 2-5 p.m., Oct. 22, and 9 a.m.-12 noon, Oct. 29. Admission is free.

Call 8841517, or e-mail philwacoal@skyinet.net.



Risk factor

Breast cancer is curable if detected and treated early. Anything that increases your chance of getting breast cancer is called a risk factor. Consult your doctor if you are at risk for breast cancer:

- Older age (more than 50 years old)
- First-degree relative with breast cancer (mother/sister/daughter) especially if:
  - Early onset (diagnosed before 30 years old)
  - Bilateral (both sides)
  - Multiple first-degree affected members
- Hereditary breast cancer (BRCA 1/BRCA2 mutations)
- Personal history of breast cancer risk for the other breast
- History of exposure to ionizing radiation (like cobalt) during childhood
- Older age at first pregnancy (beyond 30 years old) or never given birth
- Early onset of menstruation (before 10 years old)
- Late menopause (beyond 50 years old)
- Postmenopausal obesity

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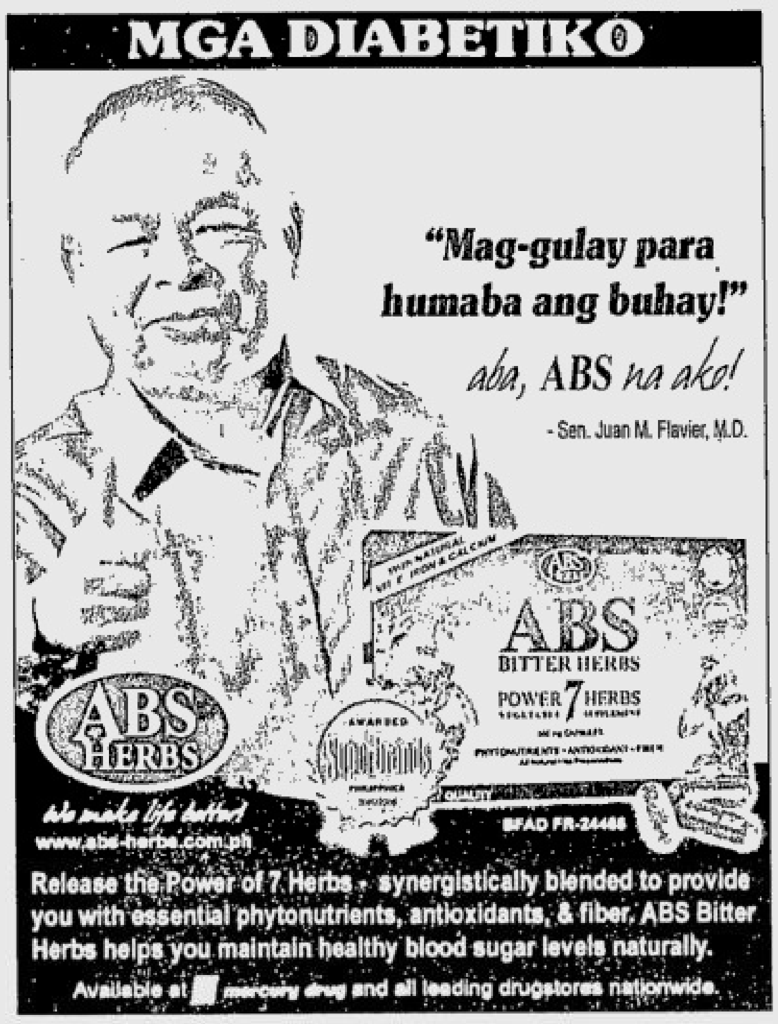
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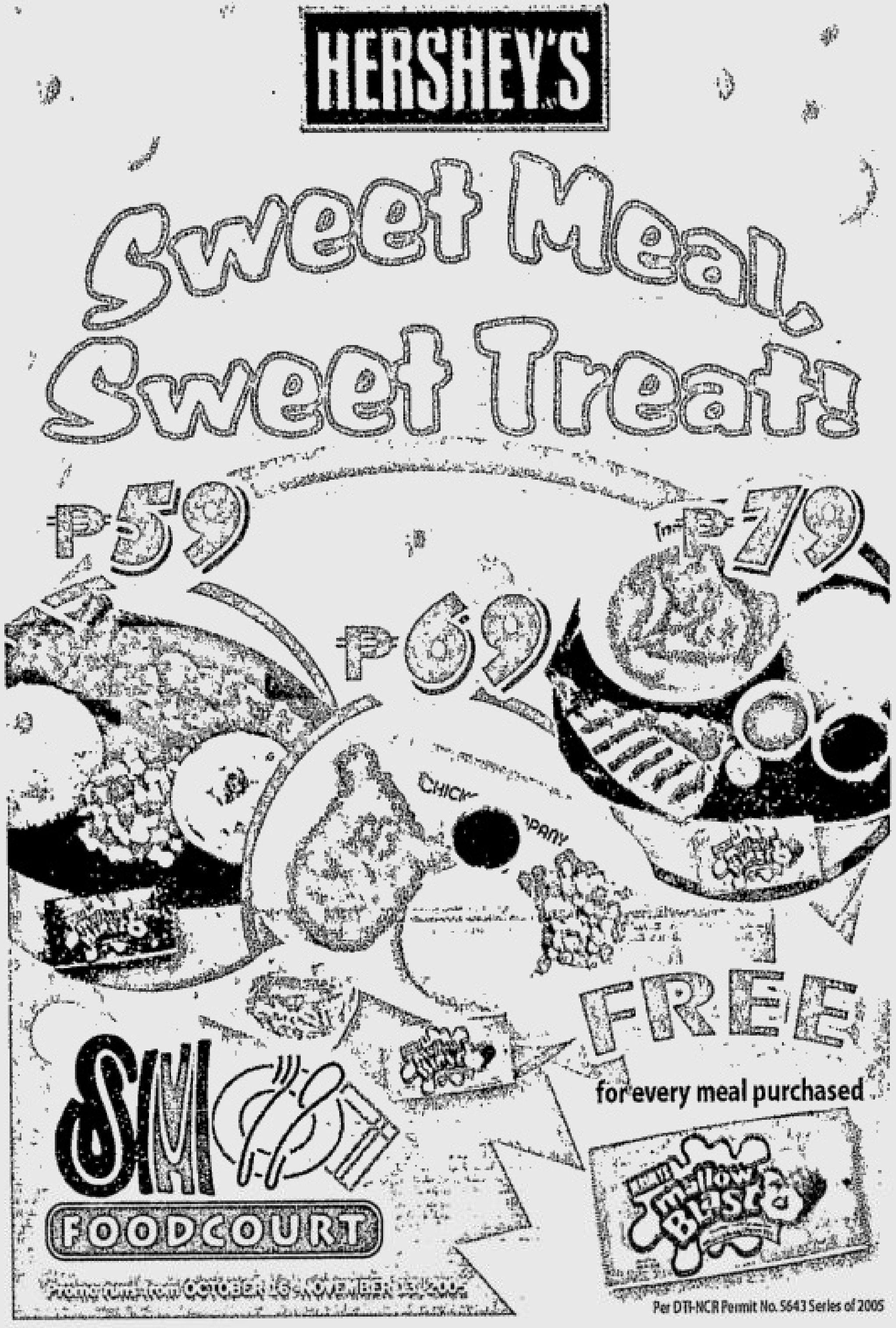

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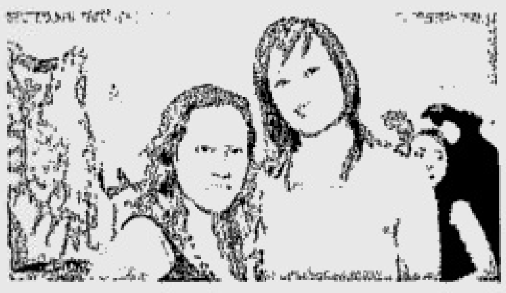
RAMPAGE OPENING: Entrepreneur Archie Rodriguez; marketing and communications director Malou C. de Venecia; world-class bag designer Bea Valdes; honorary consul of Monaco Fortune Ledesma; Cinderella Marketing presidentEdgar Coronel; Michelle Ardelle Solinsky and Gregory Adam Alms, both from the US Embassy; and vice president Therese C. Santos

YOUNG, beautiful achievers: Bianca Fernandez, Criselle Yatco, Cinderella's Richie Santos, Sara Black, Almina Aranaz, Barbie Chan, Monique Albert and Pam Ayson



CHRISTINE San Diego and Myrza Sison, editor in chief of Marie Claire

Fashionistas go on a rampage

GLORIA Diaz, Fortune Ledesma and Cheloy Muhlach

GINO del Rosario, Andre Aquino and Macky Coronel

LEO Po, Marielle Santos and Chris Yam

JILL Kierulf, Justin Borja and Lando Gonzaga

THE ANGFOURGETTABLES: Isay Alvarez, Dyords Javier, Bimbo Cerrudo and Pinky Marquez

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

THE FABULOUSLY SUCCESSFUL launch said it all, *palanggas*. Quite literally, it was a rampage of cool fashionable partyphiles, shopaholics and hotshots who gathered to experience what promises to be the boldest, sexiest and most stylish brand to arrive in Cosmo Manille this year, dahlings.

New York's best-selling brand Rampage landed in Cinderella's flagship store in Glorietta. Brilliant **Robbie Carmona,** today's most in-demand director, did a superb job with some of our town's top models showing off fabulous Rampage outfits and posing like mannequins. Then personas of distinction pulled a white satin cloth covering the store's windows to reveal the live mannequins. So cool.

Après the awesome opening, tons of young and young-at-heart rushed to the store to check out Rampage hip-chic merchandise, *palanggas*. Special discounts were given. Women of style shopped to their hearts' content, bringing home several pieces that will surely make them stand out. *Moi* got a cool shirt with the expert help of Marie Claire's fashionable editor in chief **Myrza Sison,** no less, *palanggas*.

Great gifts included makeup from sponsor Maybelline, Nokia phone from Smart, watches from Ariston Commercial Corp. and accommodations at the Sea Wind Resort in Boracay, which lucky *moi* went home with, *palanggas*, plus samples of Exofat and Nutrifit that everyone received.

Guests enjoyed great pizza from California Pizza Kitchen, cocktail prepared by Cordon Bleu Paris graduate **Katrina Arce Kuhn** and multifaceted talented woman **Arlene Arce** of the hard-to-beat Arce Dairy Ice Cream, and Gran Pierra wine from Tita Nia Wine Cellar Inc.

An after-show bash was held in Greenbelt's current hotspot, Mezze, where tons of beautiful faces partied till way past Cinderella's curfew.

The whole evening was a fashionable love fest. **Richie Santos** got congratulatory kisses from enough women to last him till... the next major do from Cinderella, natch.

Beaming with pride were the Ms with the 4 B's, **Angelique Villaraza,** extremely intelligent PR manager of L'Oreal, and multifaceted business entrepreneur **Archie Rodriguez,** president of California Pizza Kitchen.

Rampage is exclusively available in the Philippines through Cinderella Glorietta and Alabang Town Center.

Grand sales

That lush, gorgeous Lion City, renowned worldwide for its fantastic monthly promotions, did it again, *palanggas*, when it held grand sales all over the city. Chi-chi upscale shops offered up to 70-percent off on selected items.

And for the first time, shopping centers offering low-budget items, from Bugis Street to Holland Village, all joined the "sale-a-bration."

Hot shopping centers participated in the fantastic Great Singapore Sale's main event, *palanggas*. Teams from eight Asian countries competed in the Singapore Shopping challenge grand finals for the cash prize of S$6,000.

Man with that must-win attitude **Hermie Alday** and his two nieces, **Ann Jacinta** and **Lori Carlos,** represented the Philippines. Hermie A. entered the preliminary GSS contest here in Manille. Having charged the largest amount to his MasterCard in several participating malls, he qualified for the grand finals... so off he went!

At Millennia walk, Hermie and his two nieces, along with the other contestants, raced to several malls to spend S$1,000, grabbing the best bargains in lifestyle categories. The winner was the team that got the most in dollar savings. And the team got to keep all items. Cool huh?

Well, *palanggas*, the Philippines spent a mere S$999 and got a total of S$3,700 in savings, rocking the GSSC. Yes, that's livin' *la vida loca*, dahlings.

When talented new writer pretty, pretty **Ylana Harel** asked what their winning strategy was, Lori said, "As soon as we entered a store, we asked the sales person what the most highly discounted item was. And, we only entered stores that offered up to 80 percent discounts."

The three were so well-organized, they emerged champs! All the fab buys were done with their MasterCard, natch!

Asked how he felt after the race, Hermie said, "Relieved! Stressful *talaga ang* race, *grabe*!"

It's not just sales that lure shoppers to the malls of Singapore. World-class MasterCard, the official card of GSS for the second year running, always features great prizes for card holders from trips to Europe to a 15-minute foot massage at any OSIM outlet, or free rides on the MasterCard bus, *palanggas*!

Eco-friendly dance

Two non-government organizations, the Negros Forests and Ecological Foundation Inc. (NFEFI) headed by dedicated cyber smart managing director **Paul Trebol Lizares,** and the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation Inc. (PRRCFI), with hotshot chair and president **Gerardo Lizares Ledesma,** will hold a fab dance and laugh concert on Oct. 22, 8:30 p.m., in the Grand Ballroom of the Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel.

The event will feature "The Angfourgettables" composed of **Dyords Javier, Isay Alvarez, Bimbo Cerrudo** and **Pinky Marquez.**

This fundraiser is intended to sustain both NGOs as well as create awareness of the environmental crisis in Negros, *palanggas*. Money raised from this event will be used on projects to conserve and protect the environment of Negros Island.

This is so necessary, *palanggas*, because if we do not cooperate in conservation programs, we will face a tomorrow with no water for drinking and irrigation, stronger typhoons, frequent droughts; and hardly any fish to eat.

Help by being there, *palanggas*. I know I will. Call 0918-9228677.

RASCHELLE Piazza

BRIDGET Inoferio

PHILIPPINE champions: Ann Jacinta, Lori Carlos and Hermie Alday, MasterCard's world-class shoppers

YLANA Harel (extreme right) chilling with the "F" team: Angel Aquino, Sheryl Sison, Miguelito Agbin and Manolito Segunto

SINGAPORE Tourism Board's Jaylynn Malabuyo, Liza Gonzales and Rocson Chang; and MasterCard International's Rochelle Leyba and Judith Marie Dayrit

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Does seeing your double mean you are about to die?

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

"WHAT CAUSES A PERson to bilocate unconsciously? If you see your 'doppelganger' (your double), is it true it means you are about to die? Or is it just a spirit trying to imitate you? Is it possible to control or prevent this from happening so you don't start doing or saying things you are not aware of?"

First, let us define our terms so we both know what we are talking about. Bilocation is a phenomenon where a person is seen in two distant places at the same time. There are occasions when an individual may see a double of himself in the same room. This is sometimes called "autoscopy" in medical terms because you are seeing yourself as if there are two of you.

Bilocation is possible because there are several "bodies" that constitute the human being. Eastern mystics say there are seven such bodies. Unfortunately, western philosophy is aware only of two: the body and the spirit. In fact, the existence of the spiritual body is even denied by most scientists. They only recognize what can be seen, felt, weighed, measured and examined in the laboratory.

You can't dissect a person's body and reveal the doppelganger or the astral body. It does not exist on the physical plane. Therefore, it is denied.

Subtle body

The astral body is one of the subtle bodies constituting a human being. Sometimes, when tired or completely relaxed or sick, the astral body may detach itself from the physical body and go elsewhere. This is known as astral projection or out-of-body experience (OOBE).

The astral body is also called the "desire body" because it goes where the individual wants to go in his mind. Usually such out-of-body travels are done unconsciously and unintentionally.

When the astral body projects out of the physical and is seen by another person elsewhere, we have a case known as "bilocation." What is seen elsewhere is the astral body. The physical body remains where it is.

Usually one does not talk in his astral body. Somebody who greets the astral body may be surprised that he or she is ignored. There are times, however, when a projected astral body can respond to greetings but in monosyllabic or monotonous manner.

When I was working in a rubber shoe manufacturing company in the early '80s, a female employee got scared because she was told six persons saw her on a Saturday in the factory, although she was at home at that time. I told her not to be frightened because she merely bilocated. It did not mean she was going to die.

Exact copy

A "doppelganger" is slightly different from bilocation, but is related to it. According to some eastern philosophies, this refers to the "etheric double" detaching itself from the physical body. This is an exact copy of one's self, like a twin, but it does not belong to the physical realm. It is more subtle than the physical body.

The great German playwright and mystic, Goethe, saw his doppelganger riding a horse, coming from the house of his fiancée. The man on the horse was wearing a brown jacket that he did not own at that time. Eleven years later, when he visited his fiancée's house, he was riding a horse wearing that same brown jacket he saw 11 years before. At the time he saw his double, Goethe was walking toward his fiancée's house in the country.

Unintentional bilocation is not really as rare as we may think. I have talked to several people who told me that, on several occasions, their friends reported seeing them in places where they had not gone. The modern Catholic saint, Padre Pio, a Capuchin monk who exhibited stigmata, was often reported to be seen in two or more places at the same time.

Is there a way of preventing such incidents from happening? Maybe it is possible through proper training and mental discipline. This calls for tremendous self discipline and mastery over one's several bodies. Ordinary people like us will have to be content with merely understanding the phenomenon, not getting scared when it happens.

Notes: Several readers asked where they can buy the book "Are You Sleeping in a Safe Place?" by Rolf Gordon. Unfortunately, this book is not available here, nor perhaps abroad, because it is only typewritten, not printed in book form. If enough readers are interested in learning how to detect "earth rays" and avoid them, I may conduct a course based on Gordon's book. It is not difficult to learn at all.

- Due to the tremendous success of the Inner Mind Development Seminar held in Montevista Resort, Mimosa, Clark Field, Angeles, Pampanga, two weeks ago, a Basic ESP and Intuition Development Seminar will be held Nov. 12-13 in the same place. Call 0917-8436043.

E-mail jlicauco@etsamail.com.ph. Visit website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco

Changing needs, new solutions

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

The Philippines is attempting a Guinness World Record for the longest buffet

ADVANCES IN THE FIELD OF WELLness are rapidly emerging, answering the growing and changing needs of the modern world.

Here are a few:

Biopro Q-Link

Electromagnetic frequencies (EMF, commonly called electromagnetic pollution) and electromagnetic radiation (EMR) are emitted by electric and electronic devices like cellular phones, computers, microwave, television, hairdryers, automobiles, electric fans, cordless phones, alarm clocks, refrigerators, toasters.

Scientists warn that prolonged exposure to EMF may lead to stress, poor mental functioning, immune system dysfunction and other neurological and biological health problems.

The United States National Institutes of Health (NIH) adopted the term "biofield" in 1994 to refer to the bio-energetic phenomenon of layered energies that existed around the human body.

It appears that biofield plays a major role in how a person copes with stress, whether emotional, mental, physical or chemical. Biofield is compromised by constant exposure to EMF.

Researchers have found that we are exposed to 100 million times more EMF than our grandparents.

To address this problem, Biopro Technology, a US-based company, offers the Q-Link, a breakthrough technology that uses harmonizing chips in its various products—pendants, cell phone, cars, appliances, equipment harmonizers—to strengthen the biofield and increase its protective energy envelope.

The Q-Link has a strong following from people like Dr. Deepak Chopra, Madonna, Celine Dion. It is said that users of this product sleep better, are more mentally alert and suffer less from jet lag and stress. Contact Juan Rodulfa Jr., Biopro Asia, at 9110812 or 0918-2063475, or e-mail www.bioprotechnology.com

Goodbye arthritic pain

When normal cushioning is lost in joints and vertebrae, bones and cartilage scrape against each other. The result: problems with mobility and flexibility as well as pain.

Who would expect that a combination of glucosamine, an amino sugar normally formed in the body from glucose, and chrondroitin sulphate, a natural supplement, could reduce inflammation, stimulate lubrication in joints and tissue and relieve pain?

The two substances are produced by the body in small amounts. Natural and nontoxic, their effectiveness in easing osteoarthritis is unquestioned. A healthy cartilage needs three things: water for lubrication, proteoglycans (a thread-like tissue that nourishes collagen) to attract and hold water, and collagen to keep the proteoglycans in places.

According to Vitamins Digest Revised Edition 2004, the world's most reliable vitamins guide written by Dr. Kumar Pati, the therapeutic benefits of this combination include helping repair damaged tissues, ligaments and muscles, relieving inflamed spinal discs and symptoms of osteoarthritis.

R3-TOL, the name of a natural supplement that is a non-chemical way to address the problem of osteoarthritis, is here distributed by United Shelter. Contact Ronal Roquero at 9390131 or 0922-8075738.

Hello radiant skin

Imagine a skin spa exclusively for your face, a clinic equipped with the latest skin care technology. Aiming to rejuvenate skin, Grafas Facial Fitness Center opened at the Vivere Suites at Filinvest Business Park in Alabang.

The entire skin care and cosmetic package comes from Japan with product lines designed for every skin type and to suit individual needs. The Squa cleansing treatment uses 99-percent squalene oil. A new technology is the Est Sonic, a type of micro-massaging and cleansing using supersonic vibrations of up to 28,000 times per second. Face and neck get the treat they deserve with a 1-1/2 hour package that is pleasant and painless, and guaranteed to lull you to sleep. Call Babes Yu at 7711504 or 0917-5355038.

After just one session, there is a visible difference in your skin condition.

Family Wellness Festival

The ABS-CBN Foundation presents "Live, Love and Learn" to promote wellness Nov. 12-13 at the La Mesa Ecopark. A project of the Bantay Kalikasan Program, the event will feature a jazz festival with Richard Merk and friends, wellness lectures on chigong taichi/traditional medicine, visualization, Zen meditation, cancer prevention, grief work/healing, yoga, spiritual healing, nutritional healing, wellness—inside and out—and fitness. Speakers include Grace Eleazar, Gina Lopez, Boy Fajardo, Mariel Francisco, Rosario Austria, Sister Sonia Punzalan, Rina Ortiz, Agnes Prieto, Frank Regis, Tina Juan and yours truly.

Today's affirmation

"I claim the light and reject the darkness."

Love and light!

The world's longest buffet:

On Oct. 22, healthy and delicious food fare will be made available in Eastwood City as it attempts to set a Guinness world record. For inquiries, call 6876770.

Empowering women of all ages

SINGER PILITA CORRALES and fitness expert Chinggay Andrada are two women who believe in the importance of keeping their bones strong.

With both busy with their respective careers, keeping fit is a priority.

Both women drink milk, particularly Anlene, to ensure that their bones are strong enough to support their busy lifestyles.

Corrales says Anlene helps give her stamina to continue her singing career. Andrada relies on the milk to keep her going as she teaches kickboxing twice a week and works as radio disc jockey, television host and magazine editor.

ANLENE Women of Inner Strength: Elena de Roma, dancer Jan Idalyne Manlapig, Anlene endorser Chinggay Andrada, Joyce Lim, Anlene's assistant brand manager Christine Dizon and marketing manager Cherish Canizares

Drinking milk has been identified as a way to prevent osteoporosis or brittle bones that make people, particularly women, more prone to fractures. Milk supplies the calcium the body needs to keep the bones strong.

Osteoporosis prevention has to start early so Anlene encourages women to develop the habit of drinking milk as early as possible.

And since the problem can affect all women regardless of the lifestyle they have, Anlene also recommends milk-drinking for everyone.

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Clinic issues VIP cards

BOROUGH MEDICAL CARE INSTITUTE now offers an exclusive VIP Card that entitles members to several benefits.

Holders get free general medical consultations, fixed fees for specialist consultations and as much as 15-percent discount on laboratory and other diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

BMCI VIP Card members can also avail themselves of a one-time full medical examination package that includes history-taking, physical examination, complete blood count, chest X-ray, urinalysis and stool exam. They will also be eligible to join various wellness programs and promotions of BMCI.

For the whole month of October, the BMCI VIP card is available at a special discounted rate of only P1,000. The regular price of the BMCI VIP Card is P1,250.

BMCI is a state-of-the-art multispecialty, diagnostic and ambulatory surgical center at 6/F Cybermall, Eastwood, Quezon City. It is open 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday to Saturday. Call 6871369/1345/1779.

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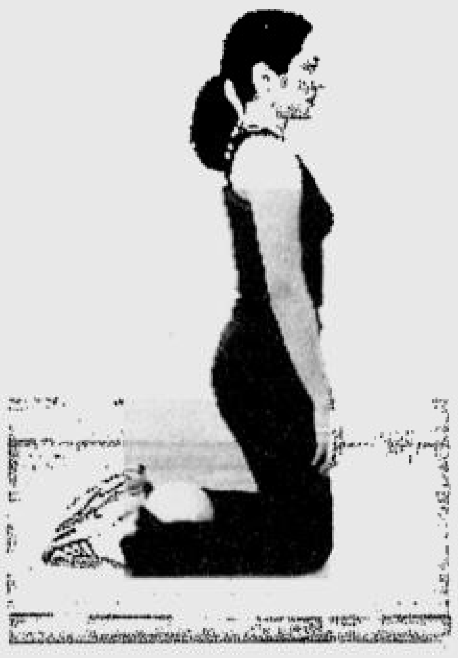
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6403 Series of 2005

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Kneeling mini-ball squeezes



THIS EXERCISE WORKS TO TIGHTen your inner thighs and buttocks.

Equipment

Exercise mat and mini-ball

Exercise technique

1. Kneel down with your thighs hip-width apart.
2. Place the ball in between your ankles.
3. Keep your torso erect as you press the ball firmly between your ankles by squeezing and releasing your buttocks and inner thigh muscles.

Performance tips

1. Start the movement by squeezing your buttocks and inner thighs rather than squeezing with your ankles.
2. Avoid slouching.
3. A firm exercise mat is a must to avoid pain in the kneecaps.

Repetitions

Do 20 repetitions.

The 'write' way to lose weight

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

Writing down what you eat makes you aware of what you are eating

RESEARCH SHOWS THAT PEOPLE TEND TO overestimate the amount of exercise they do and underestimate the amount of food they eat. That's why some people have a hard time losing weight even though they "hardly" eat and they exercise "all the time."

If you are one of these people, the solution is to use the power of the pen. Keeping records of what you eat and how often you exercise has been proven effective. Researchers found that people who were most consistent in writing down what they ate during the Christmas season lost an average of seven pounds while those who did not consistently write down what they ate gained about three pounds.

Food awareness

Writing down what you eat serves two purposes. One, it makes you aware of what you are eating. A food diary can help you clean up your daily diet of all the extras that you don't need.

Every calorie that goes into your mouth is important if you are trying to lose weight. The small stuff (a cookie here, a bite of ice cream there) adds up quite quickly and is often "forgotten" when accounting for where all the day's calories went.

Write down every single thing that goes into your mouth, no matter how small. It is best to write down what you eat as soon as you do it. Don't wait till the end of the day to write everything down. It may sound unbelievable but by that time you can already have "eating amnesia."

Tell the truth. This is not a test that you pass or fail. There is no one to try to impress.

The second purpose of a food diary is to make you aware of what you are not eating. Nutritionists say we need a minimum of five servings of fruits and vegetables daily. The ideal is nine to 10 servings. Many people don't even eat the minimum.

If you have the opportunity, show the diary to a nutritionist. She can tell you whether your eating habits are nutritionally sound or not. You will find out if you are getting enough vitamins and minerals from your food.

Food and mood

One of the reasons people gain weight is they eat when they are sad, mad, glad or scared. Boredom, stress and pressure at work or school are other triggers.

If you want to find out if you are using food as an emotional crutch, write down what you are feeling when you eat. Also write down whether you are physically hungry. Keeping track of your moods and your actual hunger level gives you a clue to whether you are eating for physical or emotional reasons.

By becoming aware of your emotional dependence on food, you can develop other coping mechanisms to deal with boredom or stress.

Exercise diary

According to the American Council on Exercise's Lifestyle and Weight Management Manual, many experts believe that recordkeeping is an invaluable component of an exercise and weight management program. People feel more responsible for their own program and don't want to "ruin" their records by having empty days.

Keeping an exercise diary can be as simple as marking the days you exercise on a desk or wall calendar or as complicated as keeping a record of weight lifted, sets and repetitions.

Breaking a bad habit

Habits are unconscious behavior patterns that have been ingrained into us by sheer repetition. That's why they are so hard to stop.

Monitoring your behavior by keeping a journal is a proven way to help break a bad habit or start a good one, according to Robert Epstein, psychology professor and author of "Pure Fitness: Body Meets Mind."

Keeping a journal may sound like an overly simplistic answer to a complicated problem like a long-time bad habit but Epstein says four decades of psychology research have proven self-monitoring to be highly effective.

For example, if you bite your nails, record exactly how many times a day you bite them. If you pull your hair, place the pulled hairs in an envelope and count them at the end of the day. Do the same with your cigarette butts if you are trying to stop smoking. If you say "you know" all the time, Epstein suggests counting how many times you say it by making a tear in a piece of paper in your pocket.

He says monitoring your behavior will help you change your habit because it makes you realize what you are doing. You cannot change something that you are not even aware of doing in the first place.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info.

Sugar screenings scheduled

HEALTHY OPTIONS, IN PARTNERSHIP with LifeScan, a Johnson & Johnson company, is conducting the Sugar/Check campaign until Oct. 29.

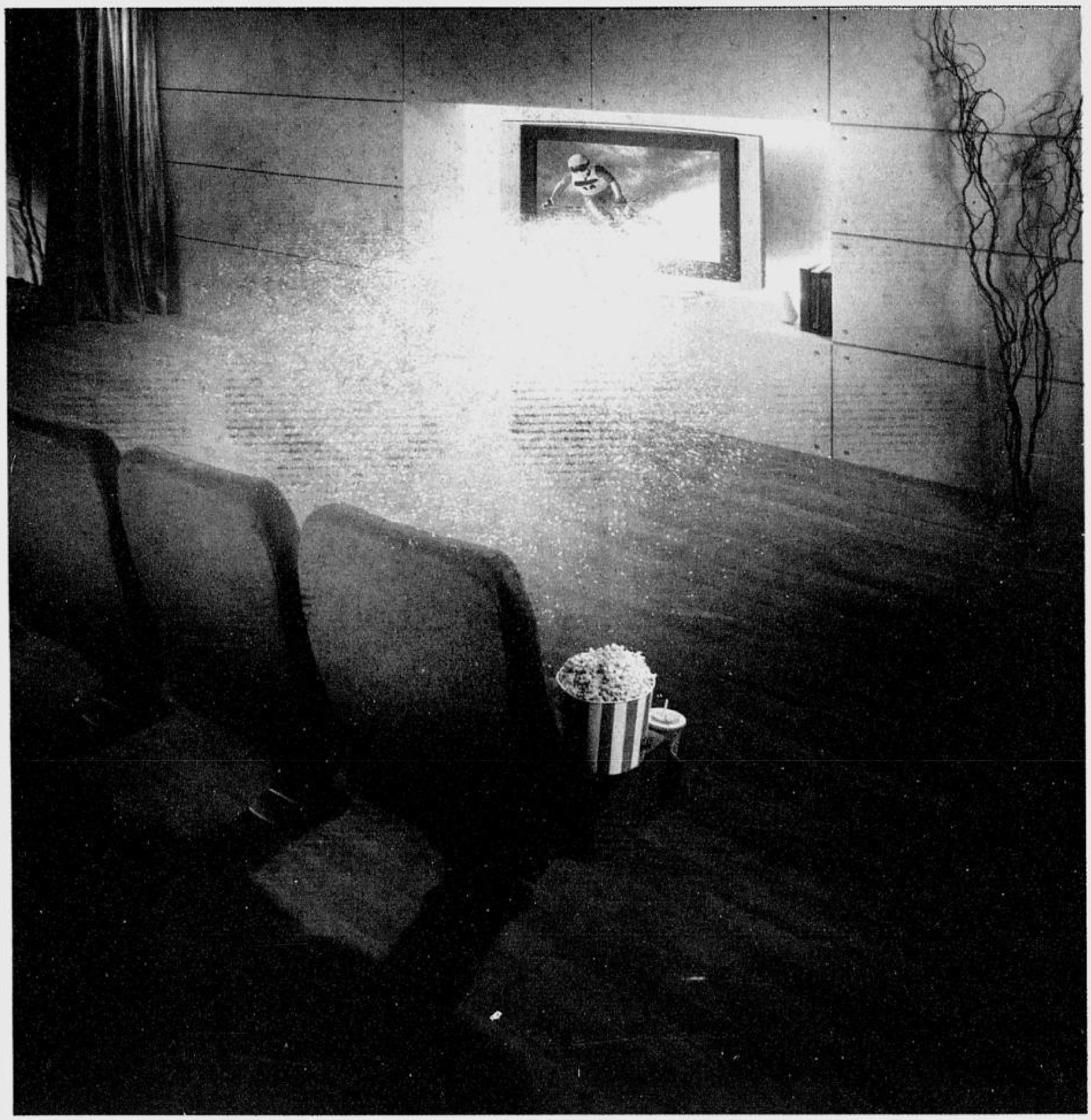
Customers get free glucose screening in Healthy Options branches as part of the chain's diabetes awareness campaign.

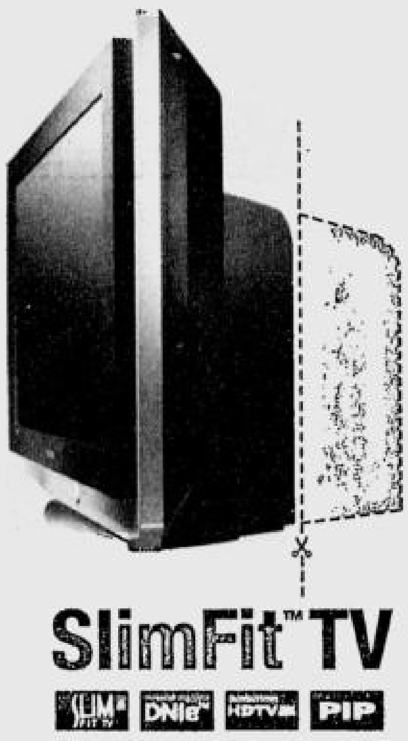
Partner LifeScan pioneered the second generation of blood glucose monitoring systems with its One Touch™ blood glucose meters.

The Sugar/Check information campaign on the prevention and management of diabetes will be conducted at branches in Festival Supermall, Alabang (Oct. 22); SM City Manila (Oct. 23), and Shangri-La Plaza in Mandaluyong (Oct. 29).

All blood glucose screenings are scheduled 4-7 p.m. Customer advisors and Johnson & Johnson staff members will answer customer questions on diabetes and how to prevent it in participating stores.

Diabetes is a chronic disease characterized by an increase in blood sugar levels that can result in long-term damage and failure of organs, especially the eyes, kidneys, nerves, heart and blood vessels.





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